

To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 04/06/2010 04:41 PM

Subject: SAB Environmental Engineer Committee Hydraulic Fracturing Research Plan Review
04/07/2010 to 04/08/2010

Mr. Hanlon,

Enclosed please find submission for Scoping Meeting tomorrow.

Talia Lugacy
Hancock, NY

TO : **Environmental Protection Agency**

RE : **SAB Environmental Engineer Committee Hydraulic Fracturing Research Plan Review**

DATE : **04/07/2010 to 04/08/2010**

EPA Designated Federal Officer (DFO) : **Edward Hanlon**

Submission : **THE UNKNOWN COSTS OF REMEDIATION**

Submitted by : **Talia Lugacy**

I am a private citizen residing in Delaware County, New York. I wish to address my deepest concern over the issue of “Hydraulic Fracturing” on behalf of myself and my children. I have been researching and participating in this matter for two years.

I seek to address a topic that often goes unaddressed, even though its relevance to the entire issue is paramount.

There has thus far, as of April 2010, been absolutely NO studies conducted to assess the POTENTIAL COSTS of remediation. The notion of permitting or regulating the natural gas industry under allowable terms to commence drilling WITHOUT ANY pre-emptive study of remediation costs is the equivalent of permitting them to do whatever damage they will and assume NO RESPONSIBILITY. I ask you to please consider the following questions :

We know that hydraulic fracturing involves on-average 5 million gallons of fresh water *per well*; and we know that this fresh water is mixed with carcinogens and at least 300 toxic chemicals *before* it is pumped at high-pressure underground, into a *radioactive* shale layer (Marcellus); and we know that the gas industry is proposing upwards of 50,000 gas wells in North-Eastern US. At potentially **250 TRILLION** gallons of contaminated water we are then left with, the questions are :

Who is being held accountable to remediate the landscape?

How much money will the gas companies be obligated to commit to remediation, before any drilling has begun?

Without a strict analysis of the possibilities and the costs of remediation, how can we pretend that we seek to protect the Environment – Water, Land, and Air ?

Where will 250 trillion gallons of contaminated water be treated?

There is not a single facility in existence – as of April 2010 – that can handle a 1/25 of that amount.

CAN RADIOACTIVE WASTEWATER *BE* treated?

How will the gas companies be held accountable to the millions of families who will be drinking the water, from all the streams and rivers that the “treated” radioactive waste-water will be dumped back into?

Are the depleted wells going to be left in the ground?

Miles upon miles of pipeline, rusting with this intense use of water and chemicals – will these REMAIN IN THE GROUND?

Who is going to held accountable to conduct thorough and frequent tests of water and air quality?

Are we going to wait for problems to occur and *then* chase after the multi-billion dollar gas industry? Who will pay for that?

It's true that we need to decrease our dependence on “foreign oil.” But the *majority of natural gas being extracted in the US today is being shipped overseas.* Are we considering jeopardizing the lives of Americans, *just to move from one fossil fuel to another?*

I sincerely hope that EPA will demonstrate the wisdom not to listen to the dollars and the intimidations of the gas companies. It is EPA's PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY to protect its citizenry. Not create a job market, not boost the economy, not turn the US into a boom-and-bust town. EPA : Now is your opportunity to do the right thing.