

From: DamascusCitizens

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:25 PM

To: ord.docket@epa.gov; Hanlon, Edward

Subject: Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2010-0674

Comment from:

On behalf of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability and NYH2O we are submitting the following information for consideration by the EPA Science Advisory Board and the researchers conducting the nationwide study of high volume hydraulic fracturing impacts.

B. Arrindell

Director

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

This comment contains material on water wells and areas in Pennsylvania impacted by gas drilling as recognized in Determination Letters from PA DEP.

Cover explanation attached and link to about 160 letters and investigation and consent orders that say, "Yes, your water source has been impacted by gas drilling" ALL these files will be on the disc, but they can be downloaded from link in next paragraph

Link to a Dropbox folder that the files can be downloaded from

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rs7b5dcny9qjo1/e\\_UzcTi911](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rs7b5dcny9qjo1/e_UzcTi911)

These go through about the middle of 2012 and were obtained as a result of a court order SEE

<http://nssh.com/2012/08/commonwealth-court-orders-dep-to-release-section-208-determination-letters/>

and

<http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2013/05/pa-dep-records-show-at-least-161-water-supplies-damaged-by-drilling/>

## Pennsylvania Determination Letters

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is including over 100 “Determination Letters” from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, sent to home and business owners whose water was impacted by nearby gas well drilling. These letters are a required outcome of a PA law (Act 223, Section 208) to “determine” whether drilling has impacted a water source. As there is both a time frame after the well is completed and a distance requirement that the home or business has to be from the well to have a challengeable presumption of responsibility by the gas drilling company apply, all of these cases are in both required limits. These limits were changed recently from 6 months to one year and from 1,000 feet to 2,500 feet but the older cases will not be revisited. There would be many more receiving a positive determination of impact with even this small widening of the two requirements. A positive determination means that the DEP has to do additional investigation and drilling company has to replace the water supply in some fashion satisfactory to the DEP.

The letters are from the years 2008 through 2012. They were obtained via a Right To Know request and a lawsuit filed by the Scranton Times, taking a year and a half to acquire them. They show that the Department's investigations indicate that the home or business owners' water supplies were impacted by gas well drilling with changes in either water quantity or quality based on testing done before drilling and after. The details in the letters show what these changes are including diminished quantity and increases in minerals, salts, changes in pH and clarity of the water and gasses, often methane, moving with the water.

In addition to these letters to individual home and business owners, there are on this link [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rs7b5dcny9qjo1/e\\_UzcTi911](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1rs7b5dcny9qjo1/e_UzcTi911) about 30 investigations and consent orders covering wide areas, whole neighborhoods with multiple homes and businesses. One of these has 6 maps of impacted areas each covering about 24 square miles - that's number 161 at that link - areas where there we know the damage continues.

These letters are, at long last, proof from a governmental agency (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) that unconventional shale gas development DOES impact water supplies and is doing so in Pennsylvania.

*Now in their sixth year, environmental advocacy groups NYH2O and DCS began in response to the threat of shale gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin and are dedicated to protecting clean water, air, and land, as basic human rights.*

### CONTACT:

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