

**THE EPA STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON
DRINKING WATER RESOURCES - COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE EPA SAB PANEL OF EXPERTS**

Arlington, VA May 7 and 8, 2013

Testimony Given by Elizabeth Tatham, PA Stakeholder on the EPA Study

Thank you. I am Elizabeth Tatham. I am speaking as a stakeholder who testified at the hearing in Binghamton in 2010 on the Design of this EPA Study.

I have visited Dimock, PA twice and spoken with residents whose water had become undrinkable. Some had adverse health symptoms that started after the drilling began, but stopped after water for drinking and bathing was imported. In April 2010 the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) fined Cabot Oil and Gas Co. \$240,000 and ordered it to shut down three gas wells in Dimock for polluting 18 water wells. The DEP promised to pipe in fresh water from Montrose that the gas company would pay for. The gas company refused and the DEP allowed Cabot to truck free water to affected homes.

While preparing these comments, I was shocked to discover that the eagerly awaited "Progress Report" issued by EPA in December 2012 only mentions Dimock once, in a footnote on page 143, that indicates the site was dropped from this Study. The following history will make the case why Dimock should be returned as a study site with further testing, and results included in the Final EPA Report expected next year.

October 19, 2011 The Philadelphia Inquirer reported in an AP article that DEP had granted the gas company's request to stop delivering replacement water to residents as ordered in 2010 , saying the water was now safe to drink.

December 8, 2011 Hydroquest Laboratories President Paul Rubin challenged the DEP's decision saying that the location of where samples were taken was not disclosed, many area wells known to have been contaminated were not tested by DEP, visually obvious MCL violations were ignored, and that Cabot's own data reveals existing contamination in excess of State MCL drinking water quality standards. The report also states, "Since the gas industry does not use tracers that could readily be added to fracking and drilling fluids, residents have no means of determining which of hundreds of toxins they may be exposed to on a daily basis..."

January 19, 2012 The EPA Region III Action Memorandum to the EPA Hazardous Site Cleanup Division requested funding for a Removal Action. It states the purpose: "to prevent, limit, or mitigate the threats posed by the presence of hazardous substances at the Dimock Residential Groundwater Site..."

The memorandum indicates the action is based on Cabot's sampling information and consultation with EPA toxicologist, the recent EPA well survey effort, etc. concluding, that a number of home wells in the Dimock area contain hazardous substances, some of which are not naturally found in the environment. Quote, "Inorganic hazardous substances are present in four home wells at levels that present a public health concern."

March 20, 2012 Article by ProPublica, states, the EPA announced that the water is safe to drink in Dimock – quote, "But what the agency didn't say...is that the water samples contained dangerous quantities of methane gas, a finding that confirmed some of the agency's initial concerns and the complaints raised by Dimock residents since 2009. The test results also showed the group of wells contained dozens of other contaminants, including low levels of chemicals known to cause cancer and heavy metals that exceed the agency's 'trigger level' and could lead to illness if consumed over an extended period of time." The EPA's statement said in part, "with only a few exceptions we did not find levels of hazardous substances in well water that could present a health concern."

December 2, 2012 Bloomberg reported that the gas company's own definition of Marcellus Shale and the isotopic testing done by the EPA show that the excessive methane in the water wells comes from the "Marcellus space."

Yesterday I talked with a resident of the Dimock area and learned that severe water contamination problems continue there. That report is attached. In summary, accurate and comprehensive information on Dimock is critical for the credibility of this EPA Study. Future decisions in our country and around the world will be based on the findings you will release next year and they must include information on Dimock and also on Pavillion, Wyoming where a preliminary report that was confirmed by USGS, indicates strong evidence of the probability that aquifer contamination linked to the hydraulic fracturing process has occurred. The public deserves full disclosure. Thank you!