

To: SAB@EPA

Date: 03/08/2011 04:11 PM

Subject: SAB Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan Review Panel

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joseph Celestin and I am a senior at Hopkins School in New Haven, CT.

At first glance, I have seemingly few ties to Appalachia, and fewer still, to fracking. However, the Hydraulic Fracturing of the Marcellus Shale in Appalachia, as well as fracking all over the country have a great effect on me. I acknowledge that fracking allows access to Natural Gas, a cleaner burning source of energy. I disagree though that fracking, in its current form, is the right solution to this problem. While fracking, by means of natural gas extraction creates cleaner air, companies that partake in fracking are polluting both the soil and water with their lack of ability to clean up after themselves. As of right now, wastewater is being kept in plastic-lined 'ponds' or being poured into rivers as a form of dilution, regardless of its level of treatment. The only solution to this is to stop all hydraulic fracturing and come up with another way to access the natural gas. I realize, however, that this is too much to ask, especially when energy is such a big issue in our country. That being said, my solution to our current problem, is the containment of wastewater in steel drums. In addition to this, companies should be forced to record the amount of wastewater they produce from each fracking site and the chemicals contained in it. Depending on the richness of the site, each would have a limit on how much waste could be produced.

While this is not a final solution to the problems caused by fracking, it is a temporary one that should be explored while more permanent solutions are evaluated.

Thank you,

Joseph Celestin