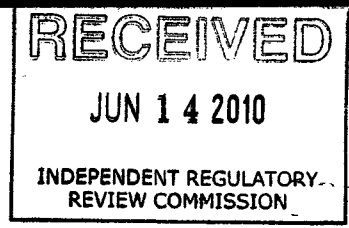


#2806

From: Kip Leitner [kip.leitner@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 2:07 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Marcellus Shale Toxic Drilling Solutions



Hi,

I live in Philadelphia, and am concerned about natural gas drillers polluting the water supply of Pennsylvania. I keep hearing that there are *no laws* requiring natural gas drilling companies to reveal what they are pumping into the group to lubricate their drills as they extract natural gas. Essentially, we're just supposed to trust them that these solutions are not dangerous, and if they are, it won't matter anyways because the wells are 'sealed'. It is beyond me how anyone could every possibly think that a well could ever be 'sealed' when the business end of the drill is a device designed to fracture rocks deep underground. Look at what happened to the coal mines in Pennsylvania.

Once abandoned, they all filled up with groundwater which then leaches deep into underground aquifers, is forced to the surface during spring flooding, and leaches heavy metals into PA rivers such as the Susquehanna.

Given the economy being what it is, if there is some toxic lubricant that help extract the gas better, how much incentive do you think a drilling company would have to report that they are pumping toxins into the ground, especially if their profitability and competitive advantage is in part based on this strategic advantage? People sometimes do things for their own economic gain, minimizing their own assessment of risk because it is favorable to them to do so. But then, when things go wrong, cleanup costs get unfairly dumped onto future citizens of the Commonwealth. Those future citizens, yet unborn, cannot defend their access to clean water. We must defend it for them.

The gas companies will come and go, but there will be people living in Pennsylvania and drinking ground water here for a very long time. We need to protect the current and future needs of clean water by demanding that complete disclosure on what these 'fracking companies' are pumping underground: what is is, how it might become harmful and pollute water supplies.

Sincerely,

Kip Leitner
880 Corinthian Ave.
Phila. PA 19130-1442