

RECEIVED

(82)

Tate, Michele

From: William Kent [wilkent@epix.net]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2009 4:24 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed New Marcellus Wastewater Standards

11/13/09 11:11:13

NOTICE OF REGULATORY
ACTION

To: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
From: William Kent
Date: December 11, 2009

Some in the environmental community would have all of us believe that our drinking water is in imminent danger of harmful pollution from the fracturing of the gas wells being drilled in our state. We have monitored these cries and find them mostly speculative and unsubstantiated. No deaths or disabilities have been reported, no sicknesses have surfaced and, other than one or two instances of methane leaking into less than a handful of wells, there has been no evidence that this drilling is doing any harm. Methane is a natural gas in the ground that can be released into any one well by the drilling of a simple shallow water well or by an act of nature itself. Gas drilling did not unleash a new phenomenon.

The gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale are the largest in the U.S. and can provide power for the whole country without exporting billions of dollars a day to countries who are our avowed enemies. Extracting the gas from wells in Pennsylvania is already providing new, high paying jobs that will go on for years. The potential revenue from taxes on this gas will be an enormous benefit to our government; and, the increased wealth of our citizens will quickly translate into higher levels of economic activity for all of us. Nothing in recent years has had this potential in Pennsylvania. Why would we want to cripple this bonanza by listening to a few nay sayers who have no proof of what they say.

None of us wants to put any one Pennsylvanian in jeopardy of damaging his or her health. However, lets see some real evidence that water used in fracturing new gas wells is doing, or is likely to do, any harm before imposing new costs on those doing the drilling that are likely to result in them reducing their exploration eight thousand feet under our state's land. The brine from the flow-back of the wells is being labeled as toxic but it exists in our ground and water naturally. It is not being introduced by the use of water for fracturing. The same is true of many of the minerals that are part of the flow-back water from the wells. Of the water introduced into the ground for fracturing, only two or three percent are chemicals introduced by the drilling companies. These are proprietary to each company and are not disclosed to any of those crying wolf, so how do they know we all are being put in any danger? Perhaps it makes sense to legislate disclosure of what is being introduced into the "frac" water before deciding what to label as toxic and what to do about them.

In summary, our state is poor enough without bureaucratic roadblocks being put in the way of increased prosperity for all of us and without solid proof that we need to be protected by more rules and regulations from unsubstantiated dangers.