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Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRRC; RegComments@pa.gov; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; gvitali@pahouse.net
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Comment notice for - Advanced Notice of Final Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (7-484)



Re: Advanced Notice of Final Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (7-484)

The following comments have been received regarding the above-referenced advanced notice of final rulemaking.

Commentator Information:

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Comments entered:

My wife and I moved to the Mamont (Washington Twp) area of Westmoreland County in 1973. Around 2004 or 2005 an independent driller put a shallow well approximately 1/4 mile north of us. Shortly after several families nearby lost their water wells. Westmoreland Water Authority installed an 8" water line in our area which cost \$5000/tap-in. Due to our elevation and distance to the line, we were not required to tap in.

We would have needed manholes (digging distance was 250' to 300') costing approximately an additional \$10,000. In 2007, XTO, a division of Exxon, drilled a shallow well and fracked it about 1/4 mile south. At the same time Consol Energy was drilling approximately 40 Marcellus wells 1 to 1 1/2 miles east of us. Prior to these wells our in-house Omni water filter required changing every 3 to 4 months. In 2008 began getting sand in our well, replaced the pump and changed water filters every 5 to 7 days. Our water began to spurt so we contacted the DEP. They did not come to our home but instead suggested that we vent our well. We vented the well and stopped drinking the water. We continued to wash clothes, bath and flush toilets. I developed rashes, a dry cough, headaches, sinus problems and elevated blood pressure and dizziness.

Additional issues we experienced when drilling occurred was from the night-time lights, flaring and noise. Sleeping at night was disrupted by the constant noise and the light. I found myself falling asleep at the wheel driving into work. Thank God for rumble strips keeping me awake. The dust from the trucks became an issue when we could wipe the kitchen counter in the morning before breakfast and need to wipe it again by lunch.

We moved two years ago and since my health is improving, I can compare where we now live in Irwin to heaven and our prior home in Mamont as hell. When we sold our Mamont home a radon test was conducted and the reading was "20" compared to our current home which tested for radon a "3". Seismic testing was conducted in Mamont which shook our home at least twice causing plaster cracks and doors to become misaligned.

Although our home in Mamont was not undermined, I am concerned that mines are under my home in Irwin. Seismic testing in areas that are undermined could cause serious damage and the companies performing these tests may not have the proper and adequate liability coverage to pay for and correct the damage that could occur.

Fracking creates many issues which include:

1. Deep well injections are being linked to recent earthquakes.
2. Liners that fail in frack ponds and air pollution created from their evaporation.
3. Radioactive drill cuttings being dumped in landfills.
4. Compressor station noise and pollution.
5. Flowback water has been transported to water treatment facilities that are not equipped to properly treat flowback waste.

Regarding transmission pipelines - Sunoco is installing a 12" dia. and a 30" dia. pipeline from Houston, Pa. to Delmont, Pa. and then to the Philadelphia area. The 12" line will transmit 70,000 barrels/day and the 30" line will transmit 275,000 barrels/day carrying ethane and propane which is heavier than the surrounding atmosphere. A pipe failure would create a gray cloud which would smother anyone caught in it if the cloud was ignited creating a horrific explosion. Sunoco plans to install 4 manual shut-off valves in the 12" line. Automatic shut-off valves with spark arresters should be installed to prevent unnecessary exposure of human life. The planned 4 manual valves are not sufficient to protect a 45 mile line. Our correspondence with Sunoco will be sent separately for your review.

Recent government statistics indicate that gas needs to be at \$6/tcf for drillers to break even. Today gas is approx. \$3.25/tcf. Oil needs to be at \$75/barrel to break even. Currently oil prices are approx. \$45/barrel. We need to be concerned that the oil and gas industry in attempting to sway public sentiment to install pipelines to ship overseas. Initial estimates from the federal government suggested gas energy would last 100 years. It is now estimated to be 40 years or less. Polar ice caps are melting and sea levels are rising. Countries with low elevations and island nations have cause for concern.

Why not put turbines on the river locks and dams to generate electrical power? It would be relatively inexpensive, and when I came home at night I could plug in my electric car and charge it for \$1.75.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss my personal experience with fracking and share my thoughts on some of the issues this process creates.

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