SLIDES: ProPublica Coverage Pavillion, WY

Abrahm Lustgarten

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ProPublica Coverage Pavillion, WY
Abrahm Lustgarten
Hydrofracked? One Man’s Mystery Leads to a Backlash Against Natural Gas Drilling

Lewis McFarland’s well water contains methane gas, hydrocarbons, lead and copper, according to the EPA’s test results. When he drilled a new water well, it also showed contaminants. The drilling company EnCana is
DANGER

NO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL BEYOND THIS POINT
Pavillion

Groundwater Investigation

Site Type: Non-NPL
City: Pavillion
County: Fremont
ZIP Code: 82523
EPA ID: WY000802735
SSID: 08QV
Congressional District: At Large

On this page:
- What's New?
- Site Description
- Site Reports and Public Presentations
- Contacts
- Photo/Video Gallery

On other pages:
- Site Documents: more than 800 documents related to quality assurance, monitoring well drilling information, raw laboratory data, well sampling information, lab standard operating procedures, and lab-produced reports

DRAFT REPORT

EPA has released a draft report outlining findings from the Pavillion, Wyoming groundwater investigation for public comment and Independent scientific peer review. The draft report will be available for public comment through September 2013. A subsequent peer-review process will be led by a panel of independent scientists.

- Draft Report, December 8, 2011
- Press Release
- Tables and Charts
- Appendix C Figures
- Appendix D Figures
- Appendix E Figures
- Supplemental Information and Data
DRAFT

Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming
Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming

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Feds Link Water Contamination to Fracking for the First Time

by Abraham Lustgarten and Nicholas Kusnets
ProPublica, Dec. 8, 2011, 8:18 p.m.

In a first, federal environment officials today scientifically linked underground water pollution with hydraulic fracturing, concluding that contaminants found in central Wyoming were likely caused by the gas drilling process.

The findings by the Environmental Protection Agency come partway through a separate national study by the agency to determine whether fracking presents a risk to water resources.

Impact

In the 121-page draft report released today, EPA officials said that the contamination near the town of Pavillion, Wyo., had most likely seeped up from gas wells and contained at least 10 compounds known to be used in fracking fluids.

The presence of synthetic compounds such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene, and phenol — the constituents ofstyrene — is perhaps the most disturbing finding, as water supplies in Pavillion have been contaminated with these chemicals.

The contamination, the EPA said, could have been brought on by the practice of hydraulic fracturing — or "fracking" — an increasingly popular technique to extract gas from shale deposits.
Alternative explanations were carefully considered to explain individual sets of data. However, when considered together with other lines of evidence, the data indicates likely impact to ground water that can be explained by hydraulic fracturing. A review of well completion reports and cement bond/variable density logs in the area around MW01 and MW02 indicates instances of sporadic bonding outside production casing directly above