

Statement by John Fenton
Pavillion Teleconference, January 31, 2012

My name is John Fenton. I farm and ranch in Pavillion Wyoming. The Pavillion area was heavily drilled for natural gas. No consideration was given to well spacing or to the impacts on the people or the environment. Our land and the land of our neighbors has been damaged and devalued. The water has been contaminated and the air fouled. Our health has also been attacked, my wife is losing her sense of smell and her sense of taste, my youngest son has developed seizures and I suffer chronic headaches and fatigue.

When the people of the Pavillion area began to notice negative impacts to their water they looked to the state and industry to provide answers and help to remedy the contamination. However there was no help from the state of Wyoming or the natural gas industry. The people of the Pavillion area were told that there was no way the natural gas drilling and fracking operations in the Pavillion area could have caused damage to the water. When industry did admit that problems existed they blamed the impact on the landowners saying that they lacked proper hygiene or that they had contaminated the wells themselves. For over a decade residents of the Pavillion area tried without success to get the state of Wyoming to investigate the problems in the Pavillion area. The state never performed any tests of their own, instead they stood behind test results provided by Encana and maintained the position that there was no contamination in the Pavillion area. The water turned black, smelled like petroleum and bubbled with gas. We are being sacrificed!

The Environmental Protection Agency was approached by the people of Pavillion with the concerns of contamination that had gone ignored by the state of Wyoming and the natural gas industry. The EPA came to Pavillion and investigated the contamination. After three years of testing and investigation a draft report was released in December of 2011. The findings of the report were immediately attacked by the state of Wyoming, the natural gas industry and industry friendly politicians. The Congressional hearing regarding the EPA investigation in Pavillion Wyoming is entitled, "Cracked Science". Before a peer review is completed and before the finale findings are released the natural gas industry and their puppet politicians are trying to bury the EPA investigation.

The EPA must be allowed to perform their duties. Politics must not be allowed to trump science. Everyone should comment on the Pavillion investigation and support the work of the EPA.