

## **Statement by Louis Meeks Pavillion Teleconference, January 31, 2012**

We started our battle in early 2005 when we first discovered our water had gone bad. EnCana gave us a large tank and provided us with household water. EnCana took multiple well water samples, but their results all showed non-detect for toxic chemicals. In late October, 2005, EnCana said there was nothing wrong with our water so they pulled out the water tank they were providing for us. Knowing we needed good water, we decided to drill a new well.

In mid-December, 2005, we started drilling the new water well. We drilled to 540 feet, but the water still smelled bad. I thought we may be able to clean up the water, so the well driller cased the well. Migrating gas caused the well to blow out. During the blowout we were told we had to leave our home. Homeland Security blocked off all of the roads around our house. For three days the well blew, producing about 3 million cubic feet of natural gas. Not wanting to lose our home we hired a lawyer to get EnCana to cement the well in and stop the blowout. During the process we had to sign a quick claim deed to EnCana for our home and property. We didn't get our deed back for over two years. When EnCana cemented our water well in, one of their gas wells a thousand feet away tripled in production and two other gas wells went up in production.

We then started legal proceedings which ended in an unwanted mediation settlement that our lawyer made us sign. EnCana again provided us with household water while they hired a water well expert to clean up our water well. For two years he worked on our well, but could not clean it up.

During the entire time we've known our water is bad, we contacted our elected officials, the Wyoming Governor, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and the BLM, who administer the Tribes minerals under our property, asking for help. They continually said our water was fine.

While reading the EIS for the Wind River Gas Field Development Project, I saw Region 8 EPA Greg Oberley's name and called him to ask for EPA's help. Several of our impacted neighbors also contacted EPA. After site tours of the Pavillion area, we were invited to go to Denver to explain the problems we were having with our water. We welcome and are thankful for the help that the EPA has given us.

We struggle from problems everyday that start in the morning. Donna has to get a glass of water from the cooler so she can wash her face. We use paper plates and don't allow our grand-daughter to use the water at all. We bought an exercise spa because my doctors at the VA wanted me to exercise every day in water. Donna also used the spa for the hip problems she has from the steroids she takes for her asthma. She would sometimes use it two or three times a night. We no longer have clean water for the spa, so it's winterized and we have not used it in over three years. We both have trouble sleeping because of the pain.

We both have breathing problems and have been prescribed oxygen. Donna cannot smell or taste and has had eight sinus surgeries. When we take a shower, the bathroom has to be vented

because of explosive levels of methane coming from our water well. We have to wash and rinse all of our dishes with bottled water. We had to stop using our swamp cooler because of the hydrocarbon fumes that come in the house. I have had several heart problems and the VA says it is because of all of the stress.