

Pavillion Contaminated Water Pavillion Teleconference, January 31, 2012 by Wilma Subra

Since early 2008, individuals in the Pavillion area have been interacting with the Environmental Protection Agency over the issues of contamination and changes in their drinking water and stock water wells.

The EPA has performed testing of drinking water wells four times since contacted by the individuals in the Pavillion area.

March 2009

35 individual water wells tested
2 municipal wells tested

Methane and dissolved hydrocarbons detected in several domestic wells.

January 2010

17 individual water wells tested
4 stock/irrigation wells tested
2 municipal wells tested
3 shallow groundwater monitoring wells tested

Methane and diesel range organics detected in deep domestic wells. Methane, petroleum hydrocarbons and 2-Butoxyethanol detected in individual water wells.

August 2010

EARTHWORKS' Oil and Gas Accountability Project and Powder River Basin Resource Council released Community Health Survey Results Pavillion, Wyoming Residents.

EPA held meeting with individual water well owners followed by community meeting to present the results of the January 2010 sampling.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recommended
-residents use alternative source of water for cooking and drinking
-ventilate bathrooms for water wells with high methane content

Encana began voluntarily funding alternate water for individual well owners with organic contaminants in wells

October 2010

Two deep monitoring wells installed and tested
Individual Water Wells tested

April 2011

Resampled 2 deep monitoring wells and expanded list of parameters tested
8 domestic wells tested

3 stock/irrigation wells tested

Detected a range of organic chemicals, BTEX, trimethylbenzenes, phenols, naphthalene, 2-Butoxyethanol and methane

December 2011

Results of October 2010 and April 2011 testing released

Constituents associated with hydraulic fracturing have been released into the Wind River Drinking water aquifer at depths above the current production zone.

A number of production wells have sporadic bonding or no cement over large vertical distances and directly above intervals of hydraulic fracturing.

Little lateral and vertical continuity to hydraulically fractured tight sandstones and no barrier to stop upward vertical migration of aqueous constituents of hydraulic fracturing.

January 2012

Individuals associated with the industry disagree with the analytical findings and conclusions presented by the EPA in the draft Investigation of Groundwater Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming report. This outcry is a result of connection of groundwater contamination with hydraulic fracturing and associated chemicals. Back in August 2010, when users of contaminated water wells were told to avoid cooking and drinking their water, there was not a large industry outcry. However, now that the EPA is connecting the contamination of groundwater sources with chemicals associated with Hydraulic Fracturing, the industry is bringing pressure to bear on the EPA. Meanwhile the citizens in the Pavillion area are continuing to be exposed to contaminated water and their health is being negatively impacted.