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**Affected landowners urge Congressional support of EPA investigation of Wyoming groundwater contamination from fracking
Pavillion residents face water contamination, poor air quality, and health problems
House hearing on EPA study tomorrow**

Pavillion, Wyo. - One day before a Congressional hearing on a controversial study of water contamination from natural gas drilling, impacted residents from the Pavillion, Wyoming area voiced strong support for the EPA investigation and draft report in a telephone news conference today.

A draft report released in December by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tentatively linked hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in EnCana's Pavillion gas field in Fremont County, Wyoming to water and aquifer contamination. Residents have sought help for over 10 years from state officials and EnCana to address water well contamination and health problems they fear is caused by more than 200 natural gas wells drilled in their community.

The draft report drew attack from the gas industry, Wyoming officials, and some members of Congress. The House Energy and Environment sub-committee will hold a hearing on EPA hydraulic fracturing research Wednesday, February 1st. at 10:00 A.M., Eastern.

"The EPA must be allowed to perform their duties," said John Fenton, a Pavillion area rancher and Chair of the Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens, an affiliate of the Powder River Basin Resource Council.

Fenton and many of his neighbors are suffering serious health impacts from water well and aquifer contamination. Fenton's youngest son has seizures. His wife, along with several other area residents, has lost her sense of smell and taste. Many other Pavillion area residents suffer chronic headaches, fatigue, asthma, kidney disease, cancer and neurological problems.

EPA is taking comments on the report until March 12, 2012. Comments may be submitted electronically at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=EPA-HQ-ORD-2011-0895-0001>

"Pavillion area residents encourage everyone to comment on the Pavillion investigation and support the work of the EPA," Fenton continues, "Please thank the EPA for protecting human health, our lands and water. Tell them you support the EPA draft report findings and ask that full funding be approved for future EPA investigations in the Pavillion area."