



CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER
The Advocate for the Catskills

EPA falling down on the job

In at least three instances over the past year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ignored their own data that links fracking to water pollution.

On September 11, 2013 the EPA announced the discontinuation of the public comment period for the external review of the draft research report, "[Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming \(PDF\)](#)" which stated that "ground water in the aquifer contains compounds likely associated with gas production practices, including hydraulic fracturing."



That report documented "synthetic chemicals, like glycols and alcohols consistent with gas production and hydraulic fracturing fluids, benzene concentrations well above Safe Drinking Water Act standards and high methane levels."

The EPA report concluded that the "EPA is concerned about the movement of contaminants within the aquifer and the safety of drinking water wells over time."

With such a clear connection between contamination and fracking it makes no sense that the EPA is not finalizing this draft report or seeking peer review. **This follows a troubling pattern of EPA withdrawal from other high-profile cases and raises the question about whether the EPA is caving to industry pressure.**

In July 2012, the EPA compiled tests of drinking water in Dimock, PA when residents complained that they suspected the nearby natural gas production had contaminated their wells. After sampling water from all 64 homes, the EPA concluded that the drinking water was safe. However, the [LA Times](#) obtained an internal EPA PowerPoint presentation in July this year, that was later released by [DeSmogBlog.com](#), in which staffers argued for a continuing assessment because several wells had been contaminated with methane and substances such as manganese and arsenic, most likely because of local natural gas production.

In a third case, the EPA closed an investigation of methane in Parker County, TX although a geologist they hired confirmed that the methane was from gas production.

THIS PATTERN CAN'T CONTINUE! Please [SIGN OUR PETITION](#) to tell President Obama and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy that in order for the EPA to uphold their responsibility to protect our health and drinking water, **they must reopen these investigations into the dangers of fracking.** Printed copies of this petition will be delivered to the EPA in Washington, DC on September 25th. Please make sure your name is on it.

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