

Singh, Angela K (DOA)

From: Colombie, Jody J (DOA)
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 9:21 AM
To: Singh, Angela K (DOA)
Subject: FW: Oral testimony transcript
Attachments: Microsoft Word - Oral testimony.docx.pdf

From: Barbara Brease [<mailto:brease@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 3:52 PM
To: Colombie, Jody J (DOA)
Cc: Charlie Loeb; Ragland Hannah; Nancy @ DCC
Subject: Oral testimony transcript

Hello Jody,

Attached please find the transcript of my oral testimony for the record. Would you please include it in the public record? Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify this morning.
Barbara Brease

April 4, 2013

Public Testimony to the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regarding the Proposed regulations on hydraulic fracturing: 20 AAC §§ 25.280, 25.283, and 25.990

My name is Barbara Brease and I live in Healy Alaska. I am a homeowner and resident in an area that DNR has licensed for gas exploration. Thank you for the opportunity to present these oral comments on Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's proposed changes to its regulations concerning hydraulic fracturing. The Best Interest Finding for the license specifies that hydraulic fracturing will be used which will be used in the process. I hope you will strengthen the regulations to help safeguard public health and the environment. The license area includes lands within our residential area, near our homes.

Therefore, please consider that these regulations will affect, not just sites that are already industrialized but neighborhoods and communities where people live, walk their dogs, go to school. It is crucial that these regulations reflect the safety necessary for fracking to take place near homes and schools. I hope you will implement strong protective measures considering the fact this could be in our back yards, and under our homes.

Please require that the components of fracturing chemicals and base or primary fluids be disclosed to the public *prior* to fracturing operations. That will provide us (homeowners) the opportunity to get baseline water quality testing to determine if our water is uncontaminated or if they contain any of the chemicals planned for use in hydraulic fracturing. The industry should want that baseline information for their own well being, as well as ours. The industry should not be allowed to be secret about the chemicals they are using when public safety is at stake. Knowing if our wells become contaminated is vital.

There is compelling evidence that the process of hydraulic fracturing has had terrible impacts on public health and environment. There are well-documented cases of contamination as well as numerous studies citing the likelihood of groundwater contamination from fracking. Recently research has concluded that salty, mineral-rich fluids deep beneath Pennsylvania's natural gas fields are likely seeping upward thousands of feet into drinking water supplies.

Please revise Section 25.033 to require that drilling fluids be non-toxic. The geology and potential pathways are too unknown to be confident about pumping toxic chemicals into the ground.

The Denali area is an active seismic area. As you know, the geology in central Alaska is very tectonically active (more than most areas resulting in the Alaska Range). There are too many unknowns to be confident that fracking will not contaminate our ground water and that the reinjection of water will not cause earthquakes. Therefore, please consider restricting fracking in areas on or near known fault zones.

I appreciate your efforts to create safe regulations. Fracking in a residential area, such as ours, will have grave ramifications in many ways, not the least, the potential for groundwater contamination, air pollution and noise.

I hope that you will support the public interest in requiring stringent safeguards, especially if fracking is done in a residential area or a fragile environment where the ecosystem could be contaminated.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment.

Barbara Brease
PO Box 549
Healy, Alaska 99743

Colombie, Jody J (DOA)

From: Foerster, Catherine P (DOA)
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 2:23 PM
To: Colombie, Jody J (DOA)
Subject: FW: Data requested

From: Colombie, Jody J (DOA)
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Seamount, Dan T (DOA); Norman, John K (DOA); Foerster, Catherine P (DOA); Ballantine, Tab A (LAW); Wallace, Chris D (DOA)
Subject: Fwd: Data requested

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barbara Brease <brease@mtaonline.net>
Date: April 4, 2013, 12:55:31 PM AKDT
To: Dan Seamount <dan.seamount@alaska.gov>
Cc: John Norman <john.norman@alaska.gov>, Cathy Foerster <cathy.foerster@alaska.gov>, Jody Colombie <jody.colombie@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Data requested**

Dear Commissioner Seamount:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer oral testimony this morning at the hearing to develop regulations on fracking. You asked me to provide documentation regarding the science on the likelihood that salty, mineral-rich fluids in the Marcellus Gas Fields are likely seeping upward into drinking water supplies. The paper that I referenced concludes that certain geological formations that lie very deep in the strata, may have hydraulic connections that are unknown, creating pathways and making them at greater risk for contamination.

The study that I referred to was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States*, PNAS. , Nathaniel R. Warner, Robert B. Jackson, Thomas H. Darrah, Stephen G. Osborn, Adrian Down, Kaiguang Zhao, Alissa White, and Avner Vengosh, **Geochemical evidence for possible natural migration of Marcellus Formation brine to shallow aquifers in Pennsylvania** PNAS 2012 109 (30) 11961-11966; published ahead of print July 9, 2012, doi:10.1073/pnas.1121181109
<http://www.pnas.org/content/109/30/11961.full?sid=e28552b0-972b-4232-9531-317459576895>

It is important to note that the authors did not have a conflict of interest as contrasted by contradicting studies such as the one noted by the gentleman from Haliburton in this morning's testimony.

There are numerous other studies showing the risk of contamination from the practice of fracking, including the one noted below ,published by the National Groundwater Association.

Tom Myers, **Potential Contaminant Pathways from Hydraulically Fractured Shale to Aquifers**, Article first published online: 17 APR 2012, Groundwater Volume 50, Issue 6, pages 872–882, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-6584.2012.00933.x/abstract>

As you know, the geology in central Alaska is very tectonically active (more than most areas resulting in the Alaska Range). There are too many unknowns to be confident that fracking will not contaminate our ground water. I appreciate your efforts to create safe regulations. Fracking in a residential area, such as ours, will have grave ramifications in many ways, not the least, the potential for groundwater contamination.

Thank you very much for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Brease
PO Box 549
Healy, AK 99743