# Monitoring drinking water for contaminants related to oil and gas drilling

Roy Martin, PhD Downstream Strategies Morgantown, WV

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### **Background and experience**

- Downstream
  Strategies
  - West Virginia
  - •9 employees
  - •10+ yrs experience
- •Water Monitoring Program
  - Mining issues
  - Oil and gas drilling issues





## **Overview**

- •What to test for
- •Finding an analytical lab
- When to test
- Self-testing vs.
  professional testing
- Important protocols





## Things to test for

- Broad categories of pollutants
  - Salts
    - Na, Cl, Mg, Ca, K, etc.
  - Metals
    - Fe, Mn, Ba, As, Pb, etc.
  - Organics
    - Methane
    - Oil, Grease, Detergents, Surfactants, etc.





## Things to test for

- Testing for all possible parameters
  - •\$\$\$ in lab fees alone
- Balance costs with objectives
- Basic to comprehensive list of parameters





## Parameters to test for

- Total Dissolved Solids (\$11)
- Barium (\$11)
- Chloride (\$11)
- Methane (\$50)
- •pH (\$7)
- Iron (\$10)
- Manganese (\$10)
- Lead (\$11)
- Arsenic (\$11)

- Strontium (\$13)
- Bromide (\$13)
- Hardness (\$11)
- Alkalinity (\$10)
- Aluminum (\$10)
- Sulfate (\$11)
- TPH (ORO/DRO/GRO \$155)
- VOC (BTEX \$55)
- •\$400-\$500



# Self-testing vs. professional testing

### Self-testing

- Cheaper
- Save on labor costs (\$50/hr or more)

### Professional testing

- Independent and unbiased party
  - Vital for admissibility in court
- Access to specialized equipment
- Specialized scientific and technical knowledge
- Dependent on objectives



## When to test

#### Pre-drilling

- Required testing (1000 ft)
- Confirm results?

#### Post-drilling

- No requirements
- Burden of proof
- Increase in sediment, foaming, bubbling, taste (salty, metallic), odors (egg, fuel)

#### Continuous

• Cheap TDS meters (\$50)







## **Analytical labs**

- Certified laboratories
  - Ensures accepted protocols
  - SDWA
  - Certified for
    - Inorganics, Organics, Microb., Metals, etc.,
- Look to agency websites for info:
  - e.g., DEP/DEQ



### **Important protocols**

#### Different methods/bottles

- Certified lab instructions
- Inorganics
- Metals
- Organics
- Sampling procedures
  - Pre-treatment
  - Purge
  - EPA, DEP





### **Important protocols**

- Holding times
- Holding temps
- Chain of Custody

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## **Concluding remarks**

- Pre-drilling and post-drilling data
- Independent sampler
- Certified Lab
- Chain of Custody
  - Important protocols



### **Questions?**



