

January 12, 2012

Dr. Paul Anastas
Assistant Administrator
Office of Research & Development
USEPA Headquarters
USEPA Ronald Reagan Building (RRB)
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Room 41209
Washington, DC 20004

Re: ORD Draft Research Report: "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming"

Dear Dr. Anastas,

Thank you for accepting this letter written on behalf of Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens (PACC), our members, and our families who live and farm in the midst of the Pavillion/Muddy Ridge gas field.

Thank you for allowing us to respond to John Schopp's January 6, 2012 letter written on behalf of EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. In his letter, Mr. Schopp asks that the public comment period for the Draft Research Report: "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming" be postponed. We believe the public comment period should continue, and would like you to consider our reasons.

Mr. Schopp says in his January 6 letter, "the EPA is moving too quickly with its pre-dissemination public comment and peer review process on the Pavillion Report."

For those of us who live in EnCana's Pavillion/Muddy Ridge gas field, it can't move quickly enough. Unfortunately, we have the unique perspective of living in the contaminated area and suffering its impacts. We believe that perspective will prove to be valuable in the comments we intend to submit through the public comment process.

In Mr. Schopp's letter, he says EnCana has been working with Pavillion residents to address concerns about the palatability of our water wells. How our water tastes is the least of our concerns.

The toxic constituents and explosive levels of methane in our drinking water and aquifers, and the related impacts to our health are our greatest concerns. We are also very concerned about how the contamination will affect the health of our livestock and the condition of the soils that our farming operations are dependant on. Another huge concern for us is the depreciation of our homes and farms from property values that continue to plummet as more contamination is identified.

Pavillion residents have recognized problems with our water for over 10 years. During that time we continually asked oil and gas operators including EnCana, our state government and state agencies to investigate the obvious contamination in our water. It wasn't until the EPA started testing our drinking water wells in 2008 that we received any scientific answers, accurate data, or real answers about the serious conditions we live with.

Mr. Schopp's letter says "the public does not know where to focus its comments." We do not believe it is appropriate for EnCana to make any judgments about how the public can or cannot focus on a report the scientists at EPA have constructed and released. The test results from private drinking water wells and samples taken in groundwater monitor wells confirm contamination, and the public must have the opportunity to comment on the EPA's findings.

EnCana states they are unhappy about the lack of available data and what they feel is "critical information" in the report. We suggest they should make their case in comments

submitted to EPA's Office of Research & Development during the public comment period. We believe other interested members of the public should have the right to do the same.

In their comments, EnCana will have an opportunity to include their beliefs about how the report's findings connect to oil and gas development, hydraulic fracturing, or any other sources they may believe are affecting water quality in the Pavillion area. Other members of the public should be afforded the same opportunity.

Mr. Schopp states that the report's conclusions will be of great importance to EnCana and the natural gas industry. The findings are also of great importance to those of us who live in the Pavillion area.

Since the report's release, industry and their advocates have voiced their opinions through what appears to be a carefully constructed media campaign. It appears they are now trying to stop the public from commenting. Please ensure that all voices from the public are heard by accepting public comments through January 27, 2012.

Respectfully,

John Fenton, Chair
Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens
202 Indian Ridge Road
Pavillion, WY 82523

Cc: United States Senator Mike Enzi
United States Senator John Barrasso
Congressman Cynthia Lummis
Governor Matt Mead
Lisa Jackson, Administrator, EPA
James Martin, Region 8, EPA