

Peer Review Plan

Date: 6/27/12

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Arkansas Water Science Center
401 Hardin Road
Little Rock, AR 72211

Preliminary Title: Investigation of Shallow Groundwater Quality and Geochemistry in the Fayetteville Shale Gas Production Area, North-Central Arkansas

Subject and Purpose: The purpose of this report is to describe the geochemistry and general water quality of shallow groundwater in the Fayetteville Shale gas production area in north-central Arkansas. The shallow domestic wells used for sampling are within the Fayetteville Shale. The Fayetteville Shale is an area of ongoing production of natural gas using hydraulic fracturing (fracking). This report, which will be published by the USGS, may be the first USGS report on groundwater quality in an area of hydraulic fracturing.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review (Including Deferrals): June - July 2012. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will be by individual letters/memoranda/documents. USGS will select the peer reviewers pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>).

Expected Number of Reviewers: Anticipate 2 peer reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Geochemistry and/or general water quality.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No, the opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated into the USGS peer review process.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.