



*People concerned about the effects of fracking on the health and safety of our communities*

### **The Connoquenessing Water Story**

#### **Who's losing water?**

- At least 10 families and 31 men, women, children, plus their animals lost access to clean safe water Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Rex Energy's positions and MOB's rebuttals:**

- *Water contamination is likely caused by abandoned oil wells and coal mines*-If this is true then proper engineering studies were not conducted before drilling. If there remain unknowns regarding the causes and it appears that Rex operations serve as a catalyst to amplify and accelerate the problems left behind from past industries, then drilling needs to be prohibited in areas where abandoned oil wells, gas wells, and coal mines exist.

**Contradicting Water Tests:** The McIntyre's well water has been tested several times by Environmental Service Laboratories Inc. (ESL), who according to their web page is a "proud member of Marcellus Shale Coalition," based out of Indiana, Pa. and the DEP. The results have been contradictory.

- An ESL test taken on Feb 3, 2011 failed to detect volatile organic compounds (VOC). It includes the disclaimer that samples not specifically taken for VOC analyses were used, and that the vials contained head space (air). Gases diffuse into head space thereby lowering their concentration in the sample (perhaps to below detection levels).
- According to a DEP test a week later, on Feb. 10, 2011, the same water well contained extremely elevated levels of inorganics.
- Due to the results from the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> test, the DEP agent returned four days later, on Feb. 14, 2011, to run more extensive tests. The samples taken by the DEP on Feb. 14 showed elevated levels of VOC's, including toluene, and elevated levels of manganese and iron.
- After the family again noticed their water change, the DEP returned in August to run tests. The agent returned a few days later stating that there was a problem with the results and he would need to retest.
- The second test showed high levels of inorganics such as barium and strontium.
- **The DEP later stated that it could not stand behind the accuracy of its tests, suggesting that contamination may have come from the agency's laboratory.**
- DEP never returned to do follow-up tests of the McIntyres' water after the family repeatedly requested that new tests be done to replace those that the agency mishandled.



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- The DEP has denied the McIntyres' request for a 501 compliance hearing which is designed to mediate between operators, homeowners, and the DEP when "the well operator and the water user are unable to reach agreement on the means for restoring or replacing the water supply." At least one other family has been denied as well. This right is guaranteed to them under PA code § 78.51. <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter78/chap78toc.html>

**AMEC Report:** Rex Energy is using opinions from reports prepared by AMEC from Sewickley, PA to justify cutting off delivery of clean safe water to families. The crux of the report is "groundwater flow."

- One page 13, the reports state that they are solely based "on data provided to AMEC by Rex Energy" and that "AMEC inferred likely groundwater flow."
- No one from AMEC contacted the landowners to verify well depth, date of complaints, current conditions, or to request other tests done by the homeowners or the DEP.
- AMEC never set foot on the properties to take a water sample nor did they oversee the sampling or the testing.
- The McEvoy's report can be found at:  
<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0By3M-EAoZvZNR0xxd3g1bGdTeUtVcGx3Ri13a1NLZw>

**Accident Documentation:** Rex Energy has denied any responsibility for the changes in water and publicly denied that anything out of the ordinary has occurred at their wells. However, the documents tell a different story.

- Rex Energy's Third Quarter 2010 report acknowledge a "casing integrity issue" at Shannon #2H and Voll #1H <http://ir.rexenergycorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=525670>
- An AP report indicated that there may have been problems in as many five wells
- [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_GAS\\_DRILLING\\_NEW\\_CONTAMINATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_GAS_DRILLING_NEW_CONTAMINATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)
- On 09/14/2010 Rex Energy was cited by DEP 78.56FRBRD - *Failure to maintain 2' freeboard in an impoundment*
- On 09/14/2010 Rex Energy was cited by DEP for 78.86 - *Failure to report defective, insufficient, or improperly cemented casing w/in 24 hrs or submit plan to correct w/in 30 days*
- On 11/21/2010 Rex Energy was cited by DEP for SWMA301 - *Failure to properly store, transport, process or dispose of a residual waste.*
- On 11/16/2010 Rex Energy was cited by DEP for 301CSL - *Stream discharge of IW, includes drill cuttings, oil, brine and/or silt.*



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- The DEP reports can be found at:  
<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0By3M-EAoZvZNcTRzY0w3ZDdSMmE1bzIERFd2QzZCZw>

### **Continued Problems in the Woodlands:**

- On Feb. 20, 2012 MOB was informed by a resident that there was a “spill” taking place on Crab Run Rd. near the site Rex Energy’s Grossick well.
- One witness was told by a worker that there had been a “frack out,” another worker said it was drilling mud that returned to the surface.
- Drilling mud lines the culvert next to the road, passes through a pipe under the road, and runs towards the creek. Hay bales were set up in an attempt to stop the flow into the creek.
- According to Timothy Puko’s February 21 article published on Pittsburgh Tribune Review’s website, the clean-up had been going on for three to four weeks--that would set the start date at Jan. 23 or 29. In the same article Michael Brinkmeyer, general manager at Keystone Midstream Services LLC, told the reporter “there were no accidents or uncontrolled or unexpected discharges.” Read more:  
[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s\\_782645.html#ixzz1nhu80rPe](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_782645.html#ixzz1nhu80rPe)
- In a second article posted the same day by the same author, Brinkmeyer changed his story and stated that Keystone Midstream Services LLC did have an "inadvertent surface release" from its pipeline installation a week prior, on Feb. 14. Read more:  
[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s\\_782729.html#ixzz1nhuXkllr](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s_782729.html#ixzz1nhuXkllr)
- As of Feb 28, 2012 there is a large containment pit set up sounded by hay bales on the flood plain to the east of creek and a smaller on the west bank.