

TXsharon
<sharon@gmail.com>
12/07/2010 05:09 PM

To: Al Armendariz
cc: "ralvarez@edf.org", Jeremy Nichols, "smitty@citizen.org",
"scherbeck@aol.com",
"KHARAGAN@LAW.UTEXAS.EDU", David Gray
bcc:
Subject: Re: EPA enforcement action on natural gas drilling in
Parker/Hood County

Yee haw! Hats off to the new Sheriff and his deputies!

From my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2010, at 4:54 PM, Armendariz.Al@epamail.epa.gov wrote:

Hi Everybody,

We're about to make a lot of news. The first story has already been printed. There'll be an official press release in a few minutes. Also, time to Tivo channel 8. Bug David for more info.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/EPA-orders--111474704.html>

Makes me think about the first time I saw a FLIR camera video years ago on Jeremy's website from a Colorado investigation, or when I first appreciated the magnitude of poor fluid management practices from pictures and video on Sharon's blog.

Thank you both for helping to educate me on the public's perspective of these issues. And thank you all for your continued support and friendship.

Its been a crazy few days.

Best always,

Al

EPA acts after water contaminated by drilling in Parker County

by CHRIS HAWES

[Bio](#) | [Email](#) | Follow: [@ChrisHawesCh8](#)

WFAA

Posted on December 7, 2010 at 4:26 PM

Updated today at 4:26 PM

PARKER COUNTY — News 8 has learned the EPA has issued an emergency order after the agency says a natural gas company's operations contaminated drinking water in Parker County. It's the first confirmed case of its kind in the Barnett Shale. This afternoon the EPA issued an emergency order to Range Resources under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The order alleges natural gas from a Range Resources well contaminated two private drinking water wells, which draw water from the same aquifer. The company's been ordered to supply the families with clean drinking water, as well as monitors inside their homes, to assess methane levels. The EPA's also ordered Range to take the necessary action to halt the flow of methane into the water supply.

EPA regional administrator Al Armendariz tells News 8 the EPA decided to issue the order after the Railroad Commission of Texas declined to act in the case.

Al Armendariz/R6/USEPA/US

12/07/2010 04:41 PM

To "Cynthia Giles-AA", "Adam Kushner"

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: EPA Press Release

stunning...

Al Armendariz
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA
Region 6
armendariz.al@epa.gov
office: 214-665-2100
David Gray

----- Original Message -----

From: David Gray
Sent: 12/07/2010 04:41 PM CST
To: Al Armendariz
Subject: Fw: EPA Press Release

----- Forwarded by David Gray/R6/USEPA/US on 12/07/2010 04:41 PM -----

Re: EPA Press Release

Victor Carrillo to: David Gray

12/07/2010 04:39 PM

Thanks for the notice but as I have said repeatedly -- it is a premature action while we continue to investigate.

Victor Carrillo

-----Original Message-----

From: <Gray.David@epamail.epa.gov>
To: Carrillo, Victor <Victor.Carrillo@rrc.state.tx.us>

Sent: 12/7/2010 4:27:27 PM
Subject: EPA Press Release

Chairman,

Dr. Armendariz asked me to share this press release with you as soon as it was completed. It will be issued shortly.

David

EPA Issues an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order to Protect Drinking Water in Southern Parker County

Agency orders Range Natural Gas Company to stop the contamination of Methane and Other Contaminants into drinking water near multiple residences

(Dallas ? TX) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered a natural gas company in Forth Worth Texas to take immediate action to protect homeowners living near one of their drilling operations who have complained about flammable and bubbling drinking water coming out of their tap. EPA testing has confirmed that extremely high levels of methane in their water pose an imminent and substantial risk of explosion or fire. EPA has also found other contaminants including benzene, which can cause cancer, in their drinking water.

EPA has determined that natural gas drilling near the homes by Range Resources in Parker County, Texas has caused or contributed to the contamination of at least two residential drinking water wells. Therefore, today, EPA has ordered the company to step in immediately to stop the contamination, provide drinking water and provide methane gas monitors to the homeowners. EPA has issued an imminent and substantial endangerment order under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Parker County is located west of Fort Worth, Texas.

In late August, EPA received a citizen's complaint regarding concerns with a private drinking water well. During the inspector's follow-up inquiry, EPA learned that the homeowner had previously complained to the Texas Railroad Commission as well as the company, but their concerns were not adequately addressed by the State or the company. EPA then conducted an on-site inspection of the private drinking water well with the homeowner and a neighboring residence, and returned to collect both water and gas samples. These samples were sent to an EPA certified laboratory for analysis. The data was received in late November 2010 and was carefully reviewed by EPA scientists. The EPA scientists have conducted isotopic fingerprint analysis and concluded the source of the drinking water well contamination to closely match that from Range Resources' natural gas production well.

EPA has asked the company to conduct a full scale investigation. EPA is requiring Range Resources under this order to:

- Immediately deliver potable water to the two residences;
- Immediately sample soil gas around the residences;
- Immediately sample all nearby drinking water wells to determine the extent of aquifer contamination; and
- Provide methane gas monitors to alert homeowners of dangerous conditions in their houses.
- Develop a plan to remediate areas of the aquifer that have been contaminated.
- And, to investigate the structural integrity of its nearby natural gas well to determine if it is the source of contamination.

EPA has data showing the presence of natural gas at two wells. EPA is ordering Range to investigate other nearby properties to determine if their drinking water is at risk. EPA has been in contact with a rural water system operator approximately 1 mile away, and they are taking steps to test their water for natural gas constituents. Residents of other homes are advised to contact EPA immediately if their wells seize up or if their water begins to effervesce. EPA will contact nearby private well home owners to advise them of our actions and to let them know that we've required the company to test their wells.

The uncontrolled release of natural gas can be dangerous since it is odorless and flammable and it escapes facilities. Uncontrolled release of natural gas inside a building or home can cause a fire or explosion.

Drinking water contaminated with natural gas impurities such as benzene is unhealthy.

EPA believes that natural gas plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and the process known as hydraulic fracturing is one way of accessing that vital resource. However, we want to make sure natural gas development is safe. As we announced earlier this year, we are in the process of conducting a comprehensive study on the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water.

In the meantime, EPA has made energy extraction sector compliance with environmental laws one of EPA's National Enforcement Initiatives for 2011 to 2013. The initiative focuses on areas of the country where energy extraction activities such as hydraulic fracturing are concentrated, and EPA's enforcement activities will vary with the type of activity and pollution problem presented.

To read a copy of order to the company, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region6>

To learn more about hydraulic fracturing, visit:
<http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/class2/hydraulicfracturing/index.cfm>

To learn more about EPA's National Enforcement Initiatives, visit:
<http://epa.gov/compliance/data/planning/initiatives/initiatives.html>

To learn more about EPA hydraulic fracturing study, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing>

Chris Lister/R6/USEPA/US

12/06/2010 09:36 AM

To Jerry Saunders

cc

bcc

Subject Lipsky Video

Jerry,

I was able to convert the iphone videos that Mr. Lipsky sent to a Windows file. You will be able to open this with Windows Media Player. There are five of them, this is the best as it shows the wellhead and attached hose.



IMG_0009.wmv

Thanks,

Chris Lister
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA Region VI
Water Resources Section (6EN-WR)
Water Enforcement Branch
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