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From the Desk of Gene Powell, Publisher/Editor

EXPERTS BLAST EPA'S FRAC'ING STUDY AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

"You have a better chance of hitting the moon with a Roman candle than fracturing into fresh water zones by hydraulic fracturing shale rock."

So was the example from the **testimony by Railroad Commission of Texas Chairman Elizabeth Ames Jones** before the **U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology** on their review of **Hydraulic Fracturing Technology** in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. In light of the many activists' allegations that hydraulic fracturing is polluting our water, Jones said, ***"it is geologically impossible for fracturing fluid or natural gas or oil to migrate upward through thousands of feet of rock, sometimes miles, to affect the water table."*** Jones also stated, ***"It is morally wrong to deprive Americans the benefit of their God-given natural energy resources because a few special interest Grimm Brothers insist on perpetuating fairy tales."*** She went on to say that, ***"technologies developed in America by Americans have made the impossible now possible."*** ***If these technologies are outlawed, the federal government would lose \$4 billion in revenue and the states would lose \$785 million in revenue, not to mention thousands of lost jobs. A study by IHS Global Insight Analysis reports that many states would be affected like Oklahoma, Kentucky, West Virginia, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York, but Texas is the most affected. Texas could lose 364,000 jobs and almost \$37 billion in gross state product.***

We found her statements **particularly tough in support of hydraulic fracturing and Texas**. After the general statements from the panelists, she responded to a statement by the lone person on a 2nd panel, **Dr. Paul Anastas, Administrator, Office of Research & Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, who discussed the public information stakeholder meetings the EPA held in **four cities in 2010** including **Fort Worth, Texas** and **Canonsburg, Pennsylvania**. **Chairman Jones** said she attended the one in Fort Worth and said: ***"I am the only person in this hearing room today who was actually at one of those hearings Dr. Anastas mentions. There was nothing scientific about that hearing. It was the least scientific hearing I have ever been to. People were lined up one after the other to disparage drilling in general. It was not limited to the science of hydraulic fracturing or to science in general"***. **Chairman Jones** later told me she was glad she was able to see one of the EPA's "junk science" meetings first-hand.

The most revealing part of Dr. Anastas' testimony to me was that he conceded, under questioning, and agreed with the other witnesses, *"that not a single case of drinking water contamination has ever been substantiated in the U.S."* I guess Al Armendariz, EPA Region VI Administrator, Dallas, in his haste to alert all his anti-drilling cronies about his [EPA Emergency Order Against Range Resources Dec 7 2010](#) in Texas, forgot to copy his unsubstantiated claim to Dr. Anastas at the EPA in Washington, D.C.

The panelists were:



Panel I - Mrs. Elizabeth Ames Jones, Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas; Dr. Robert M. Summers, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment; Mr. Harold Fitch, Michigan State Geologist; Director, Office of Geological Survey, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; and Board Member, Ground Water Protection Council; Dr. Cal Cooper, Worldwide Manager, Environmental Technologies, Greenhouse Gas, and Hydraulic Fracturing, Apache Corporation; Dr. Michael J. Economides, Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Michael Economides, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Houston, was highly critical of the *EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan*. He said, *"The mandate to EPA was to employ a transparent, peer review process in this study of hydraulic fracturing. However, this process has been anything but that. For sure, many of the 22-member Hydraulic Fracturing Study Panel are experts in their own area of groundwater, public health, etc., but almost all have no experience in hydraulic fracturing and no understanding of current industry practices. The panel excludes outright some of the most highly regarded individuals in the technical area of hydraulic fracturing; presumably being an expert on the subject immediately condemns one as an industry shrill."*

His contention is that **the hydraulic fracturing process is safe, already well regulated by the various States, and the hysterical outcry over this process is completely unjustified.**

Dr. Economides went on to say that Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming each have over **60 years of extensive experience with the hydraulic fracturing process** and these States have **well developed regulatory processes in place**. Treatments must be noticed to the State before they are performed, and each State regulatory agency elects to witness treatments. There are defined **casing points, cementing and testing procedures, and treatment monitoring**. An overwhelming majority of hydraulic fracturing treatments are **witnessed by regulatory personnel. Yet, amazingly, the EPA study**

specifically excludes the State agencies' experiences from the Study plan. There can be no question that this omission is a deliberate attempt to direct the conclusions of the fracturing study.

Economides said that judging by the methods by which the EPA is conducting their study, *"it is clear that the intent is to gain regulatory authority over hydraulic fracturing. And the consumer will bear that cost."* Economides summed up his remarks by simply saying, *"NO FRAC, NO GAS."*

You can watch the rebroadcast from your computer at, which we highly recommend, by clicking on: <http://science.edgeboss.net/wmedia/science/sst2011/051111.wvx>. A link to the panelists opening remarks may be found at <http://science.house.gov/hearing/full-committee-hearing-hydraulic-fracturing-technology-0> and click on the Witness's name.

FRAC'ING LIES RAPIDLY PROLIFERATE BEFORE TRUTH CAN RESPOND

"A Lie Gets Halfway Around the World Before the Truth has a Chance to Get its Pants On."

Peter C. Glover, *Canada Free Press*, put everything into perspective on May 10, 2011, when he compared these so-called scientific studies on hydraulic fracturing and their 'shock-jock' headlines, by applying Winston Churchill's dictum that *"A lie gets halfway around the world before truth has a chance to get its pants on."*

THOSE FALSE HEADLINES ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

I believe the following from [Energy In Depth](#) in Washington, D.C., which is supported by the major oil and gas organizations in the U.S. is worth a review.

Reporters and anti-drilling groups trip all over themselves to trumpet what they believe to be a groundbreaking Duke study linking methane migration to hydraulic fracturing. Only one problem: The study does **not** actually do that.

<p>The Headline-Writers Tell One Story ...</p>	<p>... While The Guys Who Actually Wrote The Report Tell an Entirely Different One</p>
<p>'Fracking' for natural gas is polluting ground water, study concludes (<i>Christian Science Monitor</i>, 5/9/11)</p> <p>Duke University study links shale gas fracking to well</p>	<p>From the report itself: "Methane migration [via fracturing] through the 1- to 2-km-thick geological formations that overlie the Marcellus and Utica shales is less likely as a mechanism for methane contamination than leaky well casings ..." (<i>Osborn, et al., Duke Univ., 5/9/11</i>)</p> <p>More from the paper: "Based on our data (Table 2), <u>we found no evidence for contamination of the shallow wells near active drilling sites from deep</u></p>

contamination (*Charlotte Business Journal*, [5/10/11](#))

Gas Fracking Linked with Water Contamination (*Forbes*, [5/9/11](#))

Scientific Study Links Flammable Drinking Water to Fracking (*ProPublica*, [5/9/11](#))

Researchers confirm link between hydraulic fracking and flammable water (*Democracy Now*, [May 10, 2011](#))

Duke study: High levels of methane in drinking water wells linked to fracking (*Independent Weekly*, [May 9, 2011](#))

Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas Pollutes Water Wells (*Scientific American*, [5/9/11](#))

Another Fracking Mess for the Shale-Gas Industry (*TIME*, [5/9/11](#))

Fracking Study May Expose Natural Gas Industry To Regulation (*Forbes*, [5/10/11](#))

brines and/or fracturing fluids.” (*Ibid*)

“I think the most likely explanation is that there are gas well casings that are leaking. **I think that’s more likely than the mass movement of gas or liquids thousands of feet underground.** ... Again, we did not find any evidence for contamination from [fracturing fluids].” (*Duke researcher Rob Jackson interview w/ Bloomberg*, [5/10/11](#))

“The study **found no evidence of contamination from hydraulic fracturing fluids or saline produced waters,**” their report says. (*NY Times/E&E News*, [5/9/11](#))

“**They found no evidence** of the chemicals used as part of the rock-fracturing process common in natural-gas drilling.” (*Bloomberg*, [5/9/11](#))

“The Duke researchers said the gas they found in water **is not coming up through rocks from the pressure of fracturing...**” (*NY Times/E&E News*, [5/9/11](#))

“**The paper found no evidence of contamination from the chemicals used to fracture the rock** or from “produced” water -- the wastewater that emerges from the wells after the shale has been fractured.” (*AFP*, [5/10/11](#))

“Environmental groups and residents had long feared that the chemicals were -- or could be-- finding their way from the well bore and into drinking water well, but **the Duke study found no evidence of this.**” (*Huffington Post*, [5/10/11](#))

“**They did not find evidence of well-water contamination from fracking fluids** or from the flow-back water, which contains high levels of salts and other contaminants, including radioactivity, that are naturally occurring in the Marcellus Shale formation.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, [5/10/11](#))

Duke’s Rob Jackson: “It would be inaccurate and unfair to say our study proves that fracking should be banned.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, [5/10/11](#))

“The Duke research bolsters the argument that most drilling- related pollution comes from poor well construction, **not from fracturing,** Scott Anderson, a senior policy adviser for the New York-based Environmental