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Development: The Evolving Framework of
Regulation and Management (Martz Summer
Conference, June 5-6)

2014

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SLIDES: ProPublica Coverage Pavillion, WY

Abrahm Lustgarten

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ProPublica Coverage Pavillion, WY
Abrahm Lustgarten



Hydrofracked? One Man's Mystery Leads to a Backlash Against Natural Gas Drilling



Louis Meeks' well water contains methane gas, hydrocarbons, lead and copper, according to the EPA's test results. When he drilled a new water well, it also showed contaminants. The drilling company EnCana is

This article is part of an ongoing investigation:

[Fracking: Gas Drilling's Environmental Threat](#)

The promise of abundant natural gas is colliding with fears about water contamination.



The Story So Far

The country's push to find clean domestic energy has zeroed in on natural gas, but cases of water contamination have raised serious questions about the primary drilling method being used. Vast deposits of natural gas, large enough to supply the country for decades, have brought a drilling boom stretching across 31 states. The drilling technique being used, called hydraulic fracturing, shoots water, sand and toxic chemicals into the ground to break up rock and release the gas.

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[Drilling for Certainty: The Latest in Fracking Health](#)









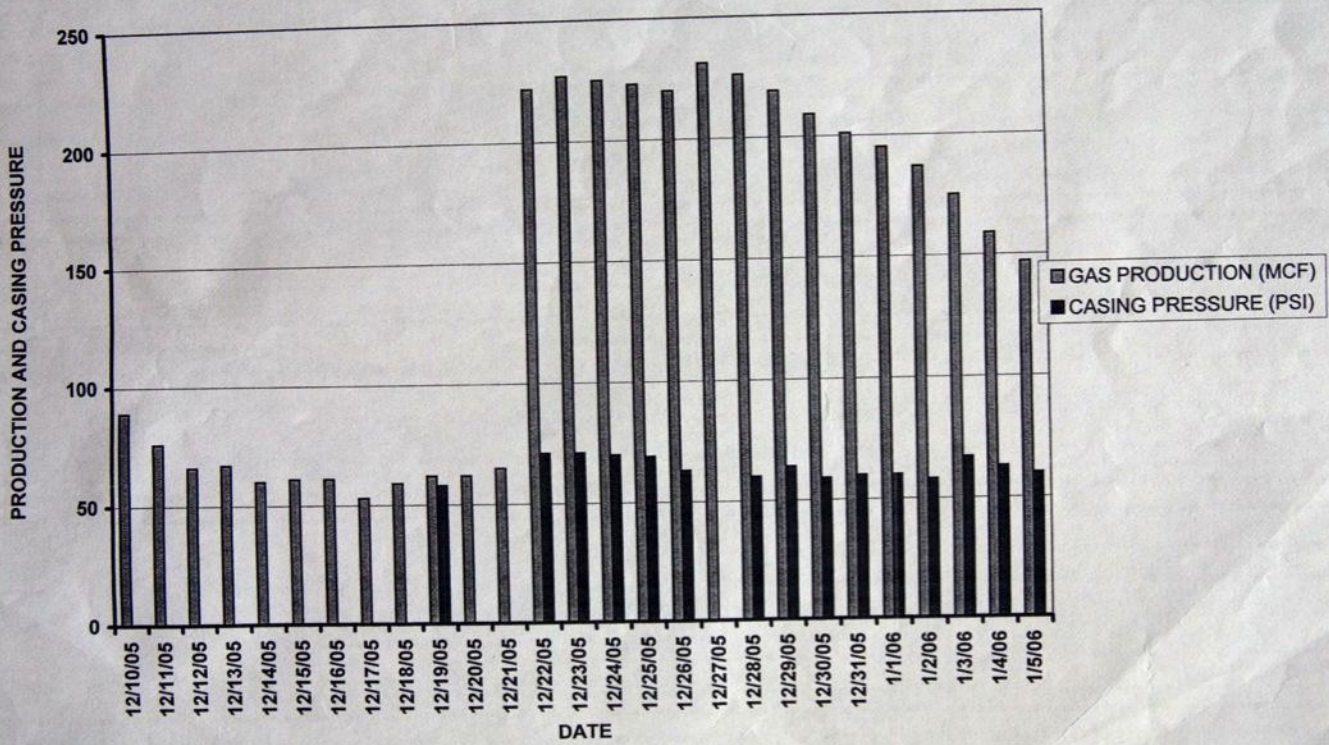
DANGER

**NO UNAUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL BEYOND
THIS POINT**



TRIBAL PAVILLION 14-02
 PRODUCTION AND CASING PRESSURE
 DECEMBER 10, 2005 - JANUARY 5, 2006

JORDAN-











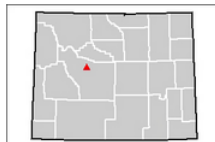
Region 8

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Pavillion

Groundwater Investigation



Site Type: Non-NPL
City: Pavillion
County: Fremont
ZIP Code: 82523
EPA ID: WYN000802735
SSID: 08QV
Congressional District: At Large

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On other pages:

- [Site Documents](#): more than 800 documents related to quality assurance, monitoring well drilling information, raw laboratory data, well sampling information, lab standard operating procedures, and lab-produced reports

DRAFT REPORT

EPA has released a draft report outlining findings from the Pavillion, Wyoming groundwater investigation for public comment and independent scientific peer review. The draft report will be available for public comment through September 2013. A subsequent peer-review process will be led by a panel of independent scientists.

- [Draft Report](#), December 8, 2011
- [Press Release](#)
- [Tables and Charts](#)
- [Appendix C Figures](#)
- [Appendix D Figures](#)
- [Appendix E Figures](#)
- [Supplemental Information and Data](#)



Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming

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Feds Link Water Contamination to Fracking for the First Time

by *Abraham Lustgarten and Nicholas Kusnetz*
ProPublica, Dec. 8, 2011, 8:18 p.m.

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In a first, federal environment officials today scientifically linked underground water pollution with hydraulic fracturing, concluding that contaminants found in central Wyoming were likely caused by the gas drilling process.

The findings by the Environmental Protection Agency come partway through a separate national study by the agency to determine whether fracking presents a risk to water resources.

Impact



Focusing Public Attention—and Staying With a Story Relentlessly

In the 121-page draft report released today, EPA officials said that the contamination near the town of Pavillion, Wyo., had most likely seeped up from gas wells and contained at least 10 compounds known to be used in frack fluids.

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A drilling rig in Wyoming. (Abraham Lustgarten/ProPublica)

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Alternative explanations were carefully considered to explain individual sets of data. However, when considered together with other lines of evidence, the data indicates likely impact to ground water that can be explained by hydraulic fracturing. A review of well completion reports and cement bond/variable density logs in the area around MW01 and MW02 indicates instances of sporadic bonding outside production casing directly above



