



**WESTERN RESOURCE**  
ADVOCATES

December 8, 2011

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## **New EPA Report Shows Critical Need for Stronger Protections** ***Landmark Findings Point to Water Contamination from Gas Production***

**BOULDER, Colo.**— In a landmark new announcement, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released draft findings that point to water quality concerns in Wyoming that may result from gas production and hydraulic fracturing in Wyoming. The draft analysis comes after a three-year study of drinking water wells in Pavillion, Wyoming, the first large-scale EPA investigation into potential drinking water contamination from fracking procedures.

In response to the release of the EPA draft findings, **Western Resource Advocates (WRA) Lands Program Director Mike Chiropolos** made the following statement:

**“For years the oil and gas industry has argued that there is no chance that fracking will contaminate ground water sources, but this report appears to be a smoking gun against that claim.**

**“Let’s not forget the most important part here: People are getting sick. We can talk about specific chemicals and claims, but the bottom line is that people and families need to be safe. Nobody should have to worry about what comes out of their faucet.”**

Earlier this week, Chiropolos testified before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) on the importance of closing the “trade secrets loophole” on fracking disclosures in Colorado. The COGCC is scheduled to deliberate on fracking disclosure rules on Monday, Dec. 12.

In addition to full disclosure of fracking materials, WRA continues to push for: Pre-Disclosure of fracking materials so that local governments know what they are dealing with *before* fracking operations begin; Dual-Disclosure of fracking materials on both the industry-sponsored Frac-Focus website *and* the COGCC website; and prevention of exemptions for individual companies such as Halliburton. Separately from disclosure, WRA has long advocated for baseline testing and ongoing monitoring of wells (including using inert markers to trace the movement of toxic chemicals) to ensure water safety.

According to a press release from the EPA, the report “indicates that ground water in the aquifer contains compounds likely associated with gas production practices, including hydraulic fracturing.” The fracturing taking place in Pavillion is below the drinking water aquifer and in close proximity to drinking water wells.

For more information on the EPA draft findings, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/index.html>

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*Western Resource Advocates is a Boulder-based nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water. For more information, visit [www.WesternResourceAdvocates.org](http://www.WesternResourceAdvocates.org).*