Summary of EPA Draft Report
"Investigation of Ground Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming"

EPA 600/R-00/000 | December 2011
http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/EPA_ReportOnPavillion_Dec-8-2011.pdf

Presented to San Miguel County Oil and Gas Task Force, 1/03/2012

EPA has released a draft report on concerns about contamination of ground water by nearby gas drilling and fracking operations in Pavillion, Wyoming. This has been mentioned nationally by newspapers, magazines, and television. The report found:

- Compounds likely associated with gas drilling operations and fracking fluids, in 2 monitoring wells that penetrate into a deep aquifer. These chemicals include:
  - synthetic compounds like glycols and alcohols, that are not usually naturally-occurring,
  - and levels of benzene above the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- Information from well logs and completions indicate potential problems with sealing.

- Using multiple lines of evidence, EPA states that "…data indicates likely impact to ground water that can be explained by hydraulic fracturing" and that it "…is concerned about the movement of contaminants within the aquifer and the safety of drinking water wells over time."

- Chemicals in local drinking water wells:
  - are consistent with analysis of samples collected from the same wells in 2010. A variety of chemicals were found suggesting "migration from areas of gas production" (including wells and pits), and include methane and petroleum hydrocarbons,
  - at concentrations that were "generally below established health and safety standards", but
  - the U.S. Health and Human Services has recommended that affected well owners use "alternate sources of water for drinking and cooking, and ventilation when showering."

- Methane found in both the deep monitoring wells and domestic wells appears to be related to methane from production wells

- Conditions in Pavillion may be different than in other parts of the country – for better or worse

- Report is undergoing public and peer review