

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2015 3:43 PM
To: EPC
Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas
Attachments: Fracking Pollutes Drinking Water.docx

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners,

Without fresh water we are doomed as a species, along with many others. Fracking not only uses water, it pollutes water with the chemicals it uses to fracture geological strata for gas extraction. The polluted water then has to go somewhere! In some cases it is returned into the ground where it has the possibility to pollute not only the ground, but due to the now fractured geology it has the potential to enter our underground water supply and indeed the valuable aquifers. Even if not pumped back into the ground, the polluted water has to be disposed of somehow and methods of achieving this without leaving pollution/poisonous chemical somewhere has not yet been resolved.

It is important to look after this earth for future generations. The fracking industry has not yet demonstrated it can do this and studies showing the downsides of fracking are growing. Some of them are noted below.

Fracking Pollutes Drinking Water, Says EPA Study

Refuting its own 2004 study, the EPA found that toxic fracking fluids that leak into the water table can contaminate drinking water.

Within the same document is the following article:

Fracking Has Now Been Linked to Low Birth Weight Babies

A study by scientists at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health has found that women who lived close to a high number of fracking sites were 34 percent more likely to have babies who were "small for gestational age" than mothers who did not live near a large number of wells.

http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/the-world-is-running-out-of-fresh-water/?utm_source=Green+Monster+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=ee6f0aaf31-NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bbf62ddf34-ee6f0aaf31-105955837

Industrial Usage (of fresh water)

In some areas, industry is to blame for heavy aquifer extractions. For example, the [Canning Basin](#) on the west coast of Australia is currently the third most depleted aquifer. Curiously, this is also an area dominated by gold and iron ore mining **as well as gas exploration and extraction. Mining and fossil fuel extraction both rely heavily on water inputs, meaning these industries stand to remove water from aquifers faster than it can be replaced by nature.** These operations obviously take place where fossil fuels and valuable metals are present which is not necessarily where water resources are abundant enough to power the process. In the United States, [36 percent of oil and gas wells](#) are located in areas experiencing aquifer stress and depletion. When industries set up shop in areas where groundwater levels are already struggling, it places all the more pressure on the aquifers supplying fresh water to the area.

Nola Anderson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]