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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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March 2, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

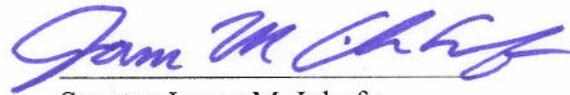
A recent piece in the *New York Times*, titled “Regulations Lax as Gas Wells’ Tainted Water Hits Rivers”, cited numerous documents, including reports and memos, drafted by the EPA concerning domestic natural gas production. Please provide to me the following information referenced in the article:

- “A 2009 study, never made public, written by an EPA consultant who concluded that some sewage treatment plants were incapable of removing certain drilling waste contaminants and were probably violating the law”;
- Other studies, research, or related materials by the EPA that “concluded radioactivity in drilling waste cannot be fully diluted in rivers and other waterways”;
- Other documents which “show that many EPA scientists are alarmed” that “drilling waste is a threat to drinking water in Pennsylvania”;
- Any agency field surveys conducted in Pennsylvania testing drilling wastewater for radium or “gross alpha” radiation;
- A December 2009 letter from EPA advising “New York that sewage treatment plants not accept drilling waste with radium levels 12 or more times as high as the drinking-water standard” and all related documents and correspondences, both sent and received by EPA.

In addition, please provide my committee staff with your responses to the February 26th letter from the Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee to you, concerning the above-referenced *New York Times* article.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Dimitri Karakitsos on my staff at 202-224-6176.

Respectfully,



Senator James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works