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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, STAFF DIRECTOR  
RUTH VAN MARK, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 22, 2010

The Honorable James B. Martin  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 20510

Dear Regional Administrator Martin:

As you know, pursuant to correspondence and briefings with my staff, as well as our recent conversation, I am closely following EPA Region 8's activities in Pavillion, Wyoming. Since beginning its investigations into water quality complaints, EPA has conducted two rounds of groundwater testing in the region, analyzed the data, and conducted meetings with residents and press. I remain concerned about statements to the effect that elements from natural gas production are the predominant source of water quality contamination. These statements are not supported by the agency's findings. I appreciate your attentiveness in ensuring that any public statements made in the future on this matter are based on solid facts and a rigorous analysis of the data.

Furthermore, though natural gas wells are prevalent in the area involved, I appreciate your statements that a contamination source has not yet been identified and your commitment to continue to consider all potential sources. I also appreciate your willingness to ensure that facts, rather than political agendas, guide the very serious effort to identify the source of any contamination. In the meantime, I agree that we need to be seriously looking at permanent arrangements for alternative drinking water supplies.

As part of my oversight responsibilities as Ranking Member of the United State Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, I am requesting that you provide me with complete answers and all supporting documentation to the following requests:

1. Please provide the total amount of funding that EPA Region 8 has spent on or related to its evaluation/testing of water in Pavillion, Fremont County, Wyoming.
2. I further request a specific detailed accounting of the following expenses:
  - a. All monies used to test groundwater in the Pavillion.
  - b. All monies spent for phase 1 testing in Pavillion.
  - c. All monies spent for phase 2 testing in Paviliion.

- d. The total amount of monies spent in both phases for drilling test wells.
  - e. The total number of wells drilled for testing in phase 1 and phase 2 by EPA.
  - f. The total number of wells drilled for testing in phase 1 and phase 2 by a contractor on behalf of EPA.
  - g. Please provide any and all EPA contracts associated with drilling wells in Pavillion.
  - h. Please provide the EPA funding source of each of the aforementioned expenses.
3. I further request a specific detailed accounting of the following expenses:
- a. Please provide a detailed accounting of all monies used to analyze the test results in phase 1 and phase 2 testing, including the names and locations of the labs that were used, and the amount of monies paid to each lab for their test.
  - b. Please list the specific types of tests and their costs that were conducted in each lab as a result of phase 1 and phase 2 testing.
  - c. Please list all monies paid to consultants or EPA contractors for help analyzing the data in phase 1 and phase 2.
  - d. Please list all consultants, contractors, scientists, lab-related personnel that EPA has retained and used in relation to Pavillion.
  - e. Please provide a rationale why EPA or Region 8 had to hire a party referenced in question 3(d) as opposed to EPA or Region 8 doing the work themselves.
4. I further request a specific detailed accounting of the following expenses:
- a. Please provide a detailed accounting of all travel expenses that EPA paid for activities related to EPA's evaluation in Pavillion, including phase 1 and phase 2 sampling trips, public meetings, any visits to labs or other field investigation destinations.
  - b. Please provide the names of EPA staff or EPA-contracted personnel that took these trips, the dates of the trips, and the funding source of these trips.
5. Please provide a budget for possible future costs in Pavillion and expenses, with the assumption that this is an ongoing evaluation and items may change in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, any planning documents, e-mails or correspondence regarding future actions in Pavillion.
6. You mentioned the current agreement in which the Encana Corporation is providing drinking water for impacted well owners for the next six months. Please identify what considerations EPA is giving to alternative drinking water arrangements after that time.
7. Please describe how EPA is involving appropriate Wyoming state agricultural, environmental, and energy agencies and whether EPA is considering delegating further investigative activities to those agencies.

8. Please provide a map that details all locations of sampled wells in phase 1 and phase 2. Please also provide a map that details all EPA drilled wells and all locations where tests occurred. Please provide a second map that details all locations where contamination has been reported or found.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my concerns. I am anticipating a response to my questions by November 30, 2010. Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact Mike Catanzaro on my staff at (202) 224-6176.

Sincerely,



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