



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 27 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

David A. Dzombak, Ph.D.
Chairman
Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan Review Panel
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Dzombak:

Please accept my appreciation for providing the Science Advisory Board's report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources*. I recognize that the Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan Review Panel and the Science Advisory Board invested considerable time and effort in reviewing the draft study plan, evaluating stakeholders' comments and preparing the SAB's report. Your recommendations will be very helpful in enhancing the clarity and scientific focus of the study plan.

We appreciate the SAB's determination that the EPA's approach for the study plan was appropriate and comprehensive and that we have identified the necessary tools for accomplishing the study's objectives. As recommended, we will continue to use the water life cycle as a framework to guide our research. We will also develop more focused research questions and provide additional details on research projects outlined in the plan.

Regarding the scope of the study, we will clarify that the emphasis is on hydraulic fracturing in shale formations, but that portions of the research may provide information on hydraulic fracturing in other types of oil and gas reservoirs.

Our responses to the SAB's specific comments are provided in the enclosed table. We are now revising the study plan and will make the final plan available to stakeholders at epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing.

Once again, thank you for your hard work and assistance with this important research effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure



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THE ADMINISTRATOR

Deborah L. Swackhamer, Ph.D.
Chairwoman
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Swackhamer:

Please accept my appreciation for providing the Science Advisory Board's report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources*. I recognize that the Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan Review Panel and the Science Advisory Board invested considerable time and effort in reviewing the draft study plan, evaluating stakeholders' comments and preparing the SAB's report. Your recommendations will be very helpful in enhancing the clarity and scientific focus of the study plan.

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Lisa P. Jackson

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