

From: [Diane MacInnes](#)
To: [Davidson, Florene, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXT] WE NEED STRICT REGULATIONS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:30:01 PM
Attachments: [NYTimes-Gas Drilling-Urbina.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Waste Water Byproducts of Shale Gas Drilling and Fracking.docx](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)
[Fracking Water- It's Just So Hard to Clean.docx](#)
[ATT00003.htm](#)

Dear Commission Clerk, Florene Davidson,

For years scientists and the public in states across the country have brought to the attention of government the extreme hazards associated with the use of produced water for anything other than reuse on site. Oil & gas companies have funded “research” to counteract the unbiased research which exists, particularly out of Cornell and other institutions in New York and Pennsylvania.

We attended the public meeting here in Santa Fe regarding produced water. I questioned the representative from the NM Environment Department about whether the industry would be involved in funding the research project. He emphatically stated that it would not. Shortly after that, it was reported in the newspaper that in fact the industry is a research partner with NMSU and helping to fund the research, along with the state. Research funded by the industry cannot be trusted, and the representative who made such an emphatic statement that they would not has lost all credibility, which reflects poorly on the NM Environment Department. This is very disappointing.

New Mexico must not be deluded by the oil and gas industry. It’s simple. People in New Mexico already have suffered enough toxic pollution from this extractive industry. It is completely irresponsible for the use of produced waste water to be used for any other purpose than repurposing it in fracking operations. The people of New Mexico deserve to be protected with strongly worded, enforceable regulations that prohibit the use of toxic wastewater beyond fracking operations.

Ian Urbina, an investigative reporter wrote an article in the NYTimes which addresses the issue of toxins in produced water. I’ve attached the article, but I would like to point out one small, but telling excerpt:

"A confidential industry study from 1990, conducted for the [American Petroleum Institute](#), concluded that “using conservative assumptions,” radium in drilling wastewater dumped off the Louisiana coast posed “potentially significant risks” of cancer for people who eat fish from those waters regularly. "

Clearly the petroleum industry knows that produced water is toxic and that no affordable, reliable methods exist to clean the water to be safe for use in agriculture, released into our rivers, and certainly not for human consumption. Please read the following articles.