Fracking: Pros, Cons, Uncertainty, and Protecting the Safety of Frostburg's

Drinking Water





Mountain Ridge Environmental Science Students









Student calibrating the YSI Pro30



Tributary T1



- Phoy a

MOUNTAIN RIDGE HS MONTHLY WATER SAMPLING SITE



The tag line is installed



pH was measured using a YSI pH10 Meter



Student records data onto data sheet



YSI ProODO measures dissolved oxygen

YSI Pro30 measures the specific conductivity

Turbidity being measured using a Hach Turbidimeter

She fills up one bottle

She dumps the water out downstream

The water samples are put on ice

At the Aquifer and Frostburg Reservoir, the water must be pulled and tested from buckets

Frostburg's Water Treatment Plant

For treatment raw and treatment mixed, the water was pulled and tested from faucets

The bottle samples from the streams are shipped on ice with a chain of custody form via FedEx

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Tributary B7		11-8	10:47	X		DW	None	7	X	X	×	X	X		X			_
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The information is inputted into our baseline water quality excel data files and then proofread independently three times.

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33 Temperature	5/10/2012	6/12/2012	//9/2012	8/9/2012	9/13/2012	10/11/2012	11/8/2012	12/13/2012	1/10/2013	2/14/2
34 Treatment Raw	13.6	17.1	21.8	21.6	19.9	13.3	14.1	6.2	4.5	
35 Treatment Mixed	15	18.1	19	20.2	20.5	17.8	7.5	11.2	9.1	
36 Frostburg Reservoir (Piney Creek Reservoir)	10.5	21.5	28./	20.0	22.2	15.1	5./	4.6	2.5	
S7 Tributary 11	10.8	13.7	19.4	17.9	11.9	5.4	3.4	2.5	2.6	
30 Gesta Run (RZ)	11.5	17.5	23.4	20.7	17.3	6.2 E.0	3.0	4./	5.4	
40 Plandy Pup (GP)		-			13.3	3.9	3.5	2.0	0.8	
40 blandy kdn (G8)	- 02	- 11.2	- 12.4	12.0	10.7	0.3	2.3	1.3	3.0	
41 Adulei	5.5	11.2	12.4	12.5	10.7	5.2	7.5	0.2	°	
42 AB Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)		6/12/2012	7/9/2012	8/0/2012	9/13/2012	10/11/2012	11/8/2012	12/12/2012	10-lan	2/14/2
44 Treatment Baw		174.2	173.2	173.7	1975	10/11/2012	215.0	12/13/2012	199	2/14/2
45 Treatment Nived	-	109.2	197.4	202.4	220.9	222.4	180.2	207.6	205.8	2
45 Frosthurg Reservoir (Piney Creek Reservoir)		142.5	157	164.3	179.5	190.6	100.2	178 5	147.2	1
47 Tributary T1		172.5	114.9	104.5	173.1	100.5	127.7	115	127.8	1
48 Piney Creek (C6)		145.3	180.4	204.2	229.1	135.6	117.9	47.1	135	1
49 Geatz Run (B7)		-			131.1	144 5	117.5	110.3	115.3	· · · · ·
50 Blandy Run (68)				-	728	475	552	153.8	704	
51 Aquifer		171 5	167.8	165.9	182.1	181.8	188.9	199.0	222	2
52		1/1.5	107.0	105.5	102.1	101.0	100.5	105.7		<u> </u>
53										
54 TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (mg/L)		6/12/2012	7/9/2012	8/9/2012	9/13/2012	10/11/2012	11/8/2012	12/13/2012	1/10/2013	2/14/2
55 Treatment Baw		113.3	112.6	112.9	121.6	125.5	140.3	122.6	122.2	1
56 Treatment Mixed		129.3	128.3	131.5	143.65	144.8	123	134.9	133.8	1
57 Frostburg Reservoir (Piney Creek Reservoir)		92.6	98.8	106.8	119.6	123.9	123.7	116.2	95.7	
58 Tributary T1		128.8	74.7	128.6	112.45	65.3	97.5	74.3	83.1	
59 Piney Creek (C6)		94.4	117.3	132.7	148.9	88.1	83	30.4	87.7	
60 Geatz Run (B7)				-	85.15	93.9	76.7	72	74.9	1
61 Blandy Run (G8)				-	474.5	308.7	359	99.8	458	3
62 Aquifer		112.4	109.1	107.8	111.63	118.2	122.8	123.3	144.3	1
63										
64 Turbidity (NTU)					9/13/2012	10/11/2012	11/8/2012	12/13/2012	1/10/2013	2/14/2
65 Treatment Raw					1.52	1.15	0.21	1.62	2.3	
66 Treatment Mixed				-	0.2	0.25	3.69	0.24	0.35	
67 Frostburg Reservoir (Piney Creek Reservoir)					5.44	8.55	4.84	3.44		
68 Tributary T1		-		-	31.2	0.74	2.04	1.37		
69 Piney Creek (C6)					N/A	4.04	2.46	3.06	estimated at 10NTU	
70 Geatz Run (B7)					18.4	3.74	2.85	3.13	18.7	
71 Blandy Run (G8)					2.44	1.04	1.3	1.07	9.89	
72 Aquifer					1.32	0.28	0.72	0.43	1.61	
73										
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Rock with HOBO monitor is pulled from stream

Data is collected off of the HOBO monitors

The information...is transferred to the computer via USB cord The newly obtained data is then plotted and analyzed

Our Data

Specific Conductivity in Tributary T1 from June 2012-February 2013 Plotted with Depth on a Staff Plate

Specific Conductivity in Tributary T1 from June 2012-February 2013 Plotted with Depth on a Staff Plate

Chloride, Sodium, Calcium, & Magnesium Levels in Tributary T1 September 2012-February 2013 Plotted with Depth at the Staff Plate

COMPARING OUR BASELINE DATA TO FRACKING FLUID

Chloride Concentrations at all 8 testing sites Sept 2012-Feb 2013

Chloride Concentrations at all 8 testing sites Sept 2012-Feb 2013 Pure Frack Fluid also shown

Chloride Concentrations at all 8 testing sites Sept 2012-Feb 2013 1:100 Diluted Frack Fluid also shown

90 80 -Treatment Mixed 70 ----- Frostburg Reservoir (Piney Creek Reservoir) 60 ———Piney Creek (C6) **Concentration (ppb)** ----Geatz Run (B7) Blandy Run (G8) Aquifer 30 20 10 0 Feb March April Feb May June July Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan 2012 2013

Strontium Concentrations at all 8 Testing Sites Feb 2012-Feb 2013

Strontium Concentrations at all 8 Testing Sites Feb 2012-Feb 2013 with Pure Frack Fluid

Strontium Concentrations at all 8 Testing Sites Sept 2012-Feb 2013 with 1:1000 Diluted Frack Fluid

Other Key Fracking Indicators that We Are Monitoring...

Analyte	Average Concentration in Tributary T1	Concentration in Frack Fluid	Multiple of Natural Level to Frack Fluid
Bromide	Below 10 ppb	445,000 ppb ¹	45,000 times
Barium	33ppb	686,000ppb ¹	21,000 times
Strontium	45ppb	1,000,000ppb ¹	20,000 times
Sp. Conductivity	125 uS/cm	700,000 uS/cm	5600 times
Gross-Alpha	3.92 pCi/L	1750 pCi/L ²	450 times
Gross-Beta	5.34 pCi/L	760 pCi/L ²	140 times
Iron	942 ppb	39000ppb ¹	40 times
Aluminum	4707 ppb	39,000 ppb ¹	8 times
Manganese	672 ppb	2630ppb ¹	4 times

¹⁻ The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, The Impact of Marcellus, 2011

2- EPA- http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/comparisonofhffluidscompositionwithproducedformationwater.pdf

What might a contamination event look like if frack fluid is diluted 1:1000? (peak is 700 us/cm)(made to scale)

Pure Frack Fluid = 700,000 us/cm

Hopefully, a contamination event like this is never observed and citizens can continue to confidently drink from the municipal water supply.

It is our hope to provide quarterly notifications indicating that the water is "still safe" to drink.

Inform the Frostburg Water Treatment Plant.

Proceed to take more detailed samples with our 20 other analytes to verify whether or not fracking was in fact the cause of the event.

We would request that a government agency would assist in further analysis, monitoring, and resolution of the issue.

