

BREAKING: Michigan Frack Disaster-- Over 40,000 gallons of frack fluids approved by Michigan DEQ for use on roads

BREAKING NEWS (September 18, 2012, 12 midnight)

News that over **40,000 gallons** of dangerous, [toxic frack fluids](#) from a northern Michigan horizontal frack well in Kalkaska County, (Excelsior 1-25 HD1), were approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in May for use on Michigan roads as "brine" is slowly leaking to Ban Michigan Fracking and other activists through a series of emails and phone calls.

[Two letters](#) by DEQ senior geologist Ray Vugrinovich, provided to Ban Michigan Fracking last week, addressed to a company called Team Services LLC indicate that he evaluated the test results of a sample of what he calls "brine" from the Excelsior 1-25 HD 1 well and approved it for dust and ice control on Michigan roads on May 14, 2012.

A month later on June 13, 2012, the DEQ realized its error and revoked its permission, stating:

"Since that time it has come to my attention the well is still producing so-called flowback water from hydraulic fracturing. Because of the unknown composition of the flow back water, the uncertainty regarding impacts to soil, groundwater and surface water, of the compounds used during hydraulic fracturing, use of brine [sic] from the State Excelsior 1-25 HD-1 must be **discontinued immediately**. Brine from the well that has been moved to a central holding site prior to use must be disposed of by injection into a disposal well." -- *Ray Vugrinovich, DEQ Senior Geologist, revoking permission he gave Team Services LLC a month prior, allowing massive use of flowback wastes on Michigan surface roads and landscapes*

In an email,(1) DEQ's Rick Henderson admitted that **954 bbls of frack fluids** from two Excelsior wells were taken from the frack well during a two-week period and used on roads:

"Yes. Between 5/30/12 and 6/13/12 954 bbls of flow back water & brine from the Excelsior 1-25HD1 and the Excelsior 1-13HD1 were applied to roads." -- *Rick Henderson, DEQ*

How much is 954 bbls (barrels) of frack fluid??

1 bbl is 1 barrel or 42 gallons

954 bbls x 42 gallons = **40,068 GALLONS**

Picture this, as we did, of [railroad tanker cars hauling water from NY to PA to frack in PA](#): One tanker car holds about 24,000 gallons of water.

Consider the magnitude of this spill:

NEARLY TWO TANKER CARS OF FRACK FLUIDS WERE DUMPED ON MICHIGAN'S LANDSCAPE and DEQ is to blame.

Where'd it all go? We demand to know! Here's a list of approved "brines" from oil and gas wells, obtained through the DEQ:

[BrineListApproved2012](#)

Ban Michigan Fracking sent a request to the DEQ, through the Freedom of Information Act, demanding more information about this disastrous, **permitted dumping** of toxic frack fluids, including records of any clean up the DEQ has done, and where all the 40,000+ gallons of toxic frack fluids has been strewn.

In her remarks to the Natural Resources Commission on September 13, LuAnne Kozma reported on BMF's FOIA request and demanded an investigation of the incident.

Environmental Impact ALERT--Water Supplies and Human Health Threatened

Ban Michigan Fracking urges all residents, commercial property owners, farmers and others concerned about the damage of the 40,000-gallons of frack fluids to human health and the environment to **document the damage** and test your water supplies, streams, lakes, soil, crops and animals. Test your families. Report illnesses to your doctors. (See [House Bill 5565](#) on the *impending threat to gag medical personnel prohibiting them from revealing frack chemicals, even to patients*).

Dr. Ron Bishop, of NY state, a chemist who has written extensively about the dangers of frack fluid, states: "Some chemicals in ubiquitous use for shale gas exploration and production, or consistently present in flowback fluids, constitute human health and environmental hazards when present in extremely low concentrations." ([Risk Assessment of Natural Gas Extraction](#), p.2) Bishop's list of chemicals are a good guide for testing. Go to an independent lab, not one associated with state government.

1. On September 17, 2012 DEQ operations chief Rick Henderson wrote to JoAnne Beemon of Don't Frack Michigan in answer to her question:

*Replace with
your logo*

Ban Michigan Fracking

A grassroots group dedicated to banning fracking
<http://banmichiganfracking.org>

"Was any of the brine from Excelsior 1-25 HD-1 applied to the road?"

"Yes. Between 5/30/12 and 6/13/12 954 bbls of flow back water & brine from the Excelsior 1-25HD1 and the Excelsior 1-13HD1 were applied to roads."