Ban Michigan Fracking asks DEQ to treat frack wells as injection wells

Update 9/10/12:

On June 28 DEQ head Dan Wyant untimely rejected the petition. The plaintiffs filed suit with Judge William Collette in Ingham County Circuit Court. They have moved for summary disposition, the hearing for which is now set for October 3.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2012

Ban Michigan Fracking asks Michigan DEQ to treat frack wells as injection wells

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[caption id="attachment_906" align="aligncenter" width="4272" caption="A frack well by Devon in Gladwin County and warning sign at the gate about the risk of deadly Hydrogen Sulfide gas leaks. Photo by LuAnne Kozma."]

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Charlevoix--On April 27, 2012, Ban Michigan Fracking, together with Deanna Hughes and Heather Schiele, filed a request for a declaratory ruling with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) director Dan Wyant, asking the agency to treat frack wells statewide as injection wells, and to suspend issuing frack permits while it decides the petition.

The petition notes the gas industry agrees a frack well is an injection well, so the DEQ should too.

A ruling would mean applicants for frack wells would have to provide data, among other things, about the chemical analysis of the types of fluids to be injected. The data would have to be provided at the time of the application so nearby landowners can do efficient baseline water testing before drilling commences.

Hughes and Schiele live in Sherman Township, Gladwin County, where Devon Energy is about to start horizontal fracking in the A-1 Carbonate layer, a bit shallower than Utica-Collingwood.

Landowners and residents nearby to other frack wells are welcome to join the request.

Documents:

Request for Declaratory Ruling

Affidavit by Ellis Boal

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 2

Exhibit 3

Exhibit 4

Exhibit 5

Exhibit 6

Exhibit 7

Exhibit 8

Exhibit 9

Exhibit 10

Exhibit 11

Affidavit by Guy Bradmon

Stipulated Order

Letter of DEQ chief Dan Wyant

Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Disposition

[caption id="" align="alignright" width="300" caption="Encana's existing well in Pere Marquette State Forest in Excelsior Township, Kalkaska County, where more horizontal frack wells are planned. Photo by LuAnne Kozma."]

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