

FreshWater Accountability Project

Dedicated to preserving
and protecting our *freshwater*,
a basic human need, belonging to us all.

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November 21, 2013

Ohio Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

c/o Mr. Craig Butler, Environmental Liaison

Dear Governor Kasich:

By now, the majority of Ohioans know that injection wells cause earthquakes, and yet, the ODNR continues to permit new injection wells in known earthquake fault zones without adequate testing for seismic activity.

The recent 3.5M earthquake on November 20, epicenter near Doanville, 2 mi. SE of Nelsonville is even more alarming given imminent approval by ODNR of an Athens County injection well that will dump 168,000 gallons a day (63,000,000 gallons/year) of toxic radioactive frack waste below our community. Approval would make the K&H site the largest facility in the state. The 3.5 quake makes it the largest ever recorded in Athens County.

The occurrence of this quake makes it unconscionable for ODNR to permit the K&H2 well without a seismic survey of the region. Well failure due to future quakes would put the drinking water of tens of thousands of people at risk. Even Tupper's Plains' C-8 treatment cannot clean radioactive water. Underground injection well programs MUST protect drinking water by state and federal law.

The science on induced quakes is clear: injection can cause earthquakes. Whether or not this particular quake was caused by injection wells (the nearest is less than ten miles away), the occurrence demands of ODNR that an adequate seismic study be required before further considering permitting this dangerous well. All other injection wells near known fault zones that are considered for permitting must also have seismic surveys to protect the populace.

We will also be forwarding this email to Ms. Susan Hedman requesting that USEPA Region V investigate the potential for ground water contamination from leaking injection wells in Ohio, leaking long laterals from horizontal, hydraulic fracturing, and the mass migration of toxins and radioactive waste from injection wells that are released as a result of migration over time through existing faults, fissures and abandoned gas wells, as well as from release by earthquake activity.

Please advise what actions will be taken to protect Ohioans from earthquakes and the ensuing water contamination caused by failed and leaking injection wells.

Sincerely,

Lea Harper