October 7, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to assist in water and air testing. In 2011 approximately 30 families in our area were told in a letter from Range Resources that our water was safe to drink and use in our homes. Recently Duke University produced test results that were vastly different from the results Range gave us. So either the initial results were inaccurate or the contamination has greatly increased. While Range Resources testing of approximately 30 homes showed that there was no danger, Duke University testing of 10 homes showed over half of those homes had methane concentration over 20 mg/L in their well water. The Texas Railroad Commission is only testing for isotopes and not gas concentration in the water. Isotech is the lab that the TRC uses to do their testing. Isotech confirmed that the TRC bottle testing method is only good for isotopes testing and they recommend doing a bag test to collect total combustible gases. This method is comparable to the testing Duke used. The TRC will not do this test. Several homeowners are willing to pay for their own tests. Our first request is that the EPA supervises this testing of our water for total gas concentrations.

While previous air testing from Range Resources using the Thermo Scientific MIRAN SapphiRe XL Model 205B Ambient Analyzer (MIRAN) showed miniscule amounts of gas, the fact that the water is flammable led us to do our own testing. We attempted to use the same company and equipment used in testing presented to the Texas Railroad Commission but were told they only worked for the industry. The manufacturer of the MIRAN we contacted told us to contact Stacy Systems. They own six of these instruments and are certified to do testing in Texas. Their test results showed explosive levels of combustible gases. While this equipment is reliable, it has a low threshold and our levels exceeded that threshold. The Bascom Turner is another common industry standard instrument used to measure total combustible gas in ambient air, which is ethane, methane and propane gas and it is accurate up to 100%, which equals 1,000,000 ppm. Our water well headspace gas vent was over 900,000 ppm or 90%. Using a filter with this instrument to test only methane gas levels a reading of over 70% methane was taken on this water well headspace gas vent. Both results clearly show explosive situations. Most importantly, there are water well holding tanks in the area that show up to 500,000 ppm and some are located in unvented garages. Even though we have videos showing that these water tanks are explosive with The Texas Railroad Commission present and admitting the tanks are explosive, they still will not test air. Therefore our second request is that the EPA tests the air for combustible gases.

We are requesting that the EPA test several homes in the area that are in immediate danger. The levels of combustible gases in area holding tanks are creating explosive life-threatening situations.

For additional information see these three WFAA news reports: February 13, 2013 http://bit.ly/15fMw6V, July 11, 2013 http://bit.ly/15Qy8Eq, and September 24, 2013, http://bit.ly/19718ES

Respectfully,

Steven P. Lipsky