To: CN=Ayn Schmit/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Gregory Oberley/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Patricia Courtney/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Martin Hestmark/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jim Martin/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Gregory Oberley/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Patricia Courtney/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Martin Hestmark/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jim Martin/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Patricia Courtney/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Martin Hestmark/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jim Martin/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Martin Hestmark/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jim Martin/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Jim Martin/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Kate Fay/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Dayna Gibbons/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=David Bloomgren/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Robert Parker/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Libby Faulk/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Sandy

Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[];
N=Sandy Fells/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lisa Mcclain-
Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Lisa Mcclain-
Vanderpool/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Cc: []
Bcc: []
From: CN=Richard Mylott/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Mon 10/22/2012 2:44:36 PM
Subject: Casper Star Tribune editorial: VOGE: New testing needed to resolve Pavillion dispute
Hotspot
Hotspot
Hotspot
Hotspot
Print
Email
By ADAM VOGE Star-Tribune energy reporter
(0) Comments

VOGE: New testing needed to resolve Pavillion dispute

Print Email
2012-10-21T11:45:00Z 2012-10-20T16:57:11Z VOGE: New testing needed to resolve Pavillion dispute
By ADAM VOGE Star-Tribune energy reporter trib.com
20 hours ago • By ADAM VOGE Star-Tribune energy reporter
(0) Comments
The state's interim oil and gas supervisor sat before a legislative committee last week and gave a surprisingly blunt answer to an important question.
At the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee's meeting in Casper, Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton, asked Bob King how comfortable he was with the results from the latest round of testing from an oil field near Pavillion.
King, a former oil and gas supervisor filling the position in the interim while the state searches for a replacement, barely hesitated.
"My opinion is that it'll generate more questions than answers," he said.
That's the last thing the parties involved in this matter need, and it's becomingly increasingly clear that until all parties involved agree on specifications and test methods, we'll never find answers.
The Pavillion dispute has already gone on for years.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drilled two test wells in an Encana Oil and Gas-owned gas field just east of town in 2010. They sampled water from the wells in order to determine whether it had been contaminated, as some area residents claimed.
Their results, released in December 2011, seemed to implicate the oil and gas industry — namely hydraulic fracturing, a technique used to loosen up oil and gas deposits trapped underground — for the contamination.
But the company and some in the state cried foul. Encana said the testing was "rushed" and not properly peer-reviewed. Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead pledged funding to help re-test the wells.
The state and the EPA collaborated and brought in the U.S. Geological Survey to perform what they hoped would be a definitive retest of the wells. The USGS released data from the testing in late September, but offered no analysis.
The lack of definitive interpretation has only spawned more debate.
The USGS didn't test the second of the two EPA wells because the flow rate through the well was too

low. The well could be tested using low-flow techniques, the agency said, but they didn't have time.
An EPA representative admitted earlier this month that some things about the second well were logged incorrectly. The well casing wasn't made entirely of stainless steel, as recorded. The well reaches almost 10 feet deeper than planned, significant because the water target zone was about 10 feet deep. Some at a recent meeting also wondered aloud whether the well is too obstructed to test.
The EPA pushed the deadline for public comment on the data back to January. A peer review is planned for that time. But some doubt whether even the long-awaited peer review will bring closure to the issue.
At the committee meeting on Oct. 15, Bebout asked Jerimiah Rieman, a policy advisor for Mead, what good the review will do. "It's possible that they'll say it's questionable," Rieman said, referring to the well test data.
And if they do, who stands to benefit? Not Encana. Not the residents. Not residents on the periphery, like the owner of a restaurant in Pavillion who once told the Star-Tribune that her business is down 60 percent since the controversy began.
It's impossible to say just what the peer reviewers will determine. But when regulators whose lives would be easier without the controversy can't easily foresee the end, it's difficult to be optimistic.
King has said he thought there should be at least one more monitoring well installed in the field. At a meeting last week, Dominic DiGiulio — an EPA scientist — called drilling more wells "a no-brainer."
And that's exactly what I propose. Only this time, everyone — DEQ, EPA, the governor's office, Fremont County, the Northern Arapaho and Shoshone tribes and more — should be involved in the planning, location and execution of the wells and testing.
If they all agree on where to drill the wells and how to drill them, maybe then the state can get the answers it needs to move on.
The data will almost definitely be disputable based on interpretation, but at least we can all agree it will have been collected correctly.Richard Mylott
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Communications and Public Involvement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Phone: 303-312-6654