

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 9:49 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Shale gas

Fyi

From: Jones, Kerri-Ann
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Tue Jul 20 18:42:18 2010
Subject: Shale gas

Jake –

FYI ---- There is an increasing amount of environmental concern regarding shale gas. EPA has been concerned and I have now heard of a documentary that is quite critical. The science is not all worked out but the principal concern is in relation to the actual chemicals used to extract the gas and the potential hazard they pose to the water supply. I have mentioned this to David Goldwyn and EPA is invited to his meeting in August.

Shale gas exploitation is already taking place in the United States, but there is very little domestic oversight of the practice, and until recently, there were no data whatsoever on the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing fluids. Congress raised concerns over this in 2009 and appropriated funds for EPA to conduct a scientific study on possible chemical contamination of groundwater that might result from this process. The study is anticipated to be finalized in 2012. The Department of Interior has done a programmatic Environmental Impact Assessment on how exploration can impact public lands, and is allowing fracturing in some locations while deferring activity in others.

Best,
Kerri-Ann