

Mr Zehringer, you didn't want an injection well in your community.  
Don't put one in ours!



James Zehringer, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Zehringer:

*“As an elected official..., I along with over 90% of the citizens [of Darke County] am bitterly opposed to this project [a CO2 sequestration injection well and associated seismic testing].”* — James Zehringer, Ohio Statehouse Rep., 77<sup>th</sup> District, in a [letter](#) to ODOT Director Jolene Molitoris, 7-31-09.

Now Director of ODNR, you no longer seem to hold the wishes of Ohio’s citizens in such high regard. The objections of hundreds of Athens County citizens to the D. T. Atha injection well permit application based on health and safety concerns have still *not* been deemed relevant or addressed by ODNR.

*Why did you, as an Ohio House Representative, oppose injection wells for CO2 in YOUR community but as ODNR Chief now support dumping of vast quantities—as much as 2 million gallons a year per well—of highly toxic, radioactive out-of-state waste, with high levels of benzene and radioactive strontium, in our community and everyone else’s communities? Whether or not you have been elected to your current government post, you still serve the public and have constituents who face irremediable harm from highly toxic, radioactive fracking waste. **If CO2 injections were not okay for your community, benzene and radioactive strontium injections are not okay in ours.***

The Atha well (ref: Application #aAMY0000706, D.T. Atha Permit # 376) is *not* okay to put in our community. We do not want it here. It is not safe.

Some questions we have asked that DOGRM has not addressed:

- Where are the monitoring wells and water testing data that would support your allegation that injection wells have not contaminated drinking water?
- Why have you not addressed citizens’ concerns about well integrity or traffic accidents or first responder preparedness or implications of truck spills along the Hocking River?
- Where is the documentation to support your claim that our hundreds of objections are not substantive?

- Where are the hydrologic maps to show that aquifers and drinking water wells will not be contaminated by the Atha well?
- Why is it considered necessary to sample water sources within 300 feet of a proposed injection well in an urban area but not at all in a rural area and not in Mrs. Frost's backyard, where the well is proposed? Why should our community accept this discrimination against rural areas?
- Where is your water sampling from around the Ginsburg well to substantiate your claim that it has not contaminated surrounding bodies of water or drinking water supplies?
- Your pr person's letter of Dec. 7, 2012, (J. Kozlowski to Heather Cantino) admitted that over a dozen Ohio Class 2 wells have failed integrity tests (since "less than 10%" of 179 wells presumably means over a dozen). Why is this acceptable and why should we be reassured by this record, since you don't test surrounding soil and water to know if there have been breaches of the casing and fluid migration?
- Please show us evidence to support Ms. Kozlowski's claim in her letter to me that the Ginsburg well was EVER shut down. Where are the missing Ginsburg records? Why did it go for years without being inspected? Why should this record and your woefully inadequate staffing and inspection protocols give us any reassurance about your ability to protect our groundwater from contamination by another well?
- Why did ODNR employees at the "open house" refuse to acknowledge their association with ODNR, let alone give their full names? Why was audiotaping not permitted, or videotaping even by accredited journalists? Isn't government supposed to be transparent and accountable to the public it serves?

*Just because the Halliburton loophole and other oil and gas regulation exempts oil and gas waste from Safe Drinking Water Act and most federal hazardous waste regulation does not make it safe in our drinking water or community. It is still toxic and highly radioactive. We still need to protect our water, school children, and animals from these poisons. Their LEGAL designation IS IRRELEVANT to our safety.*

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your reply,  
 Heather Cantino  
 Athens OH 45701