

Scientists: Fracking Linked to Groundwater Contamination

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Last week a [Texas TV station](#) broke the news that new independent [scientific analysis refutes the claim](#) by the oil and gas industry that “there’s never been a confirmed case of fracking polluting drinking water.”

WFAA, the ABC affiliate in Dallas, reported that two independent scientists using [data](#) from Texas regulators confirmed [fracking](#) in Parker County, TX by Range Resources [polluted resident Steve Lipsky’s drinking water](#) with dangerous levels of methane from the Barnett Shale.

“Texas regulators should be ashamed of themselves,” said Sharon Wilson, Earthworks Texas organizer. “Whether it’s the Railroad Commission and drinking water, or TCEQ and air pollution, these agencies have shown that Texas communities cannot rely on the state for protection against fracking and drilling companies that threaten their health.”

According to [Earthworks](#), the Parker County case is not the first example of fracking polluting drinking water:

- [The Canadian province of Alberta’s government has verified fracking pollution of drinking water](#)
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [stands by preliminary results indicating fracking polluted an aquifer near Pavillion, WY](#), before it handed its investigation over to the state of Wyoming and the company liable for the pollution.

- The U.S. EPA regional staff [linked fracking to drinking water contamination in Dimock, PA](#), but were forced to prematurely stop the investigation.

“It’s time for the U.S. EPA to come clean about how fracking pollutes drinking water,” said Jennifer Krill, Earthworks executive director. “The EPA knew about this water pollution, as it did in Wyoming and Pennsylvania. But at the moment of truth, EPA withdrew in all cases rather than definitively declare that fracking pollutes drinking water.”

Wilson concluded: “It’s no wonder that communities across the country, from Texas to [California](#), from [Colorado](#) to [New York](#), are trying to ban fracking. We can’t trust our government to protect us. We certainly can’t trust the oil and gas industry. There is no other alternative.”

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