Ralph E. Clark III
519 East Georgia Avenue
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

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Gunnison County Commissioners
Gunnison County Community Development Department
Gunnison County Planning Commission Members
Gunnison Economic Development Efforts and Projects

Hand Delivered

Dear Commissioners and Directors:

I appreciated the opportunity at the most recent Planning Commission meeting on January 9th to offer my thoughts about including the need for assessment and monitoring of the pathanogenic character of bacteria, virus, and archael microbes brought up in the returned and produced water and then stored in the proposed new pits. The proponent, Gunnison Energy, expressed willingness to cooperate in such studies and this is greatly appreciated. This effort needs to be organized in cooperation with many other possible entities, specifically from Colorado, and perhaps from far beyond. Possible cooperators include the presenters and their institutional connections at the Ninth International Symposium on Subsurface Microbiology held October 5 - 10, 2014 in Pacific Grove, California. The abstracts submitted for this conference total about 100 pages. What comes up to the surface from deep below is characterized as drawn from a whole new frontier and unknown world of study.

Also needed is a greater understanding of the socioeconomic impacts and health impact assessments related to development of oil and gas in the areas of affected communities. Collection of such information can provide efficient ways to help of planners, local leaders, industry, and the community in adjusting to the impacts of such industrial activities. Headwaters Economic from Bozema, Montana, has made available studies and guidelines on its web site this past November. Basically a major admonition is to start assembling such background information before a project is announced. Some of the references from Headwaters Economics are below. Most references have many web links. I have downloaded most of these and some other references to my files and can share them if needed.

Headwaters Economics (November 2014) How Is Fracking Shaping Your Community and Economy? Recommendations for Monitoring and Measuring Socioeconomic Effects, 4 pages.

Haggerty J. H. (November 2014) Navigating Beyond the Resource Curse: Do Local Monitoring Programs Empower Fracking Host Communities, 33 pages. The focus is a case study on assembly of socioeconomic information in Sublette County, Wyoming.

Jacquet J. B. (November 2014) A Short History of Social Impact Assessment, 4 pages. Here the focus is on how social impact issues became a focus over time.

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Headwaters Economics (November 2014) How Is Fracking Shaping Your Community and Economy?, Recommendations for Monitoring and Measuring Socioeconomic Impacts, 4 pages. This offers a summary of what to monitor in five categories along with with sources, how to approach the tasks, and experiences in regard to community involvement.

Jacquet J. B. (November, 2014) The Battlement Mesa Health Impact Assessment; A Case Study and Oral History of Process and Lessons Learned, 29 pages. This is about efforts, processes, controversies, and litigation in seeking to monitor the broad health impacts of fracking and storage of associated materials.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (2013) Science in Action, Innovative Research for a Sustainable Future; A Review of Health Impact Assessment in the U. S.: Current State-of Science, Best Practices, and Areas for Improvement, 2 pages. This offers a good short review of practices to be done and references for access to reports and information. but is said to be limited in coverage as was noted in the Battlement Mesa situation.

The documents show the need for informed community involvement in local decision making about large scale project proposals. The case studies show how to make this work constructively. As noted, it is best to start gathering information well before a project is announced. Here we also have the advantage of initiating such efforts and working with graduate students in the Masters in Environmental Management at Western State Colorado University.

Respectfully: Ralph E Clark III

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