



*Dedicated to protecting our nation's ground water.*

**Ground Water Protection Council**  
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April 13, 2009

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is the new report, "Modern Shale Gas Development in the United States: A Primer." The Primer provides regulators, policy makers, and the public with an objective source of information on the technology advances and challenges that accompany deep shale gas development. This report was funded through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oil and Natural Gas Program and prepared by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and ALL Consulting.

We greatly appreciate your donating your time and expertise in reviewing a draft of this Primer. Your comments and suggestions were thoughtfully considered and incorporated where appropriate. Therefore, we are sending you an early release copy of the final report. We encourage you to make it available to your stakeholders as a way of providing factual information on deep shale gas development and encouraging fact-based dialogue on the issues associated with that development.

Citizens and their elected officials often have questions about the nature of shale gas development, the potential environmental impacts, and the ability of the current regulatory structure to deal with this development. DOE and GWPC recognized the need for a report that presents credible, factual information with which to address these questions. This Primer describes the importance of shale gas in meeting the future energy needs of the United States. It provides an overview of modern shale gas development, as well as a summary of federal, state, and local regulations applicable to the natural gas production industry, and describes environmental considerations related to shale gas development. It includes discussion of the water supply and management challenges, as well as potential impacts to communities, wildlife, and air quality.

By providing an overview of the technical and environmental considerations associated with shale gas development, we hope the Primer will help facilitate fact-based discussion of how these activities can proceed in an environmentally responsible manner. We welcome insights you may have about the Primer and the relationship of shale gas development to water resources and other environmental values. If you have comments or questions, please contact me at

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Paque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Paque" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Paque  
Executive Director