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AGL FRACKED THE GLOUCESTER VALLEY IN LATE 2014 AND YET FAILED TO CARRY OUT ANY TESTING FOR TOXIC TOLCIDE AS REQUIRED BY THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL LICENCE.

One day after finishing the fracking of a second gas well WK12 near Gloucester, AGL took samples from the Avon River and monitoring bores. They then continued fracking another two wells without first testing the samples.

AGL received data on the 19th December, some four weeks after sampling, which showed that there had been an alarming spike in the concentration of the fracking chemical Monoethanolamine Borate (Borate) in groundwater and surface water.

A monitoring bore sample, taken from between two fracked wells which are only 800m apart, on the 17th November showed less than 1 part per billion of this chemical. After completion of fracking on the 20th November, the concentration was 60 parts per billion. That is 60 times the pre-fracking reading. AGL's Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) requires a zero concentration of Borate to be present at testing sites.

Water resources engineer, Jeff Kite, says:

"The delay between the spike occurring and AGL's awareness of it, is a huge problem. The spike in this chemical should have been identified immediately and fracking should not have continued until the spike was investigated.

It's not so much the concentration that's a worry, it's the significant increase, across 8 different monitoring locations on one day, that suggests fracking chemicals travelled a lot further than AGL expected; including into the Avon River.

The spike in Borate is an indicator that other fracking chemicals may also have migrated to those monitoring sites".

Even more disturbing is the fact that testing results for AGL's most toxic fracking chemical, Tolcide (THPS; Hydroxymethylsulfate), are not in the report at all, even though the EPA's Environmental Protection licence requires a zero detection limit for this chemical and requires AGL to test for it. AGL's report states that the EPA didn't approve the methodology for testing Tolcide levels until December 19, after all four wells had been fracked. It seems that throughout fracking, there was no

approved method in place for tracking Tolcide concentrations at monitoring sites and taking corrective action.

John Watts, spokesperson for Groundswell Gloucester, says:

“This exposes as a lie claims by AGL and the NSW Government that the coal seam gas industry is highly and competently regulated. No testing for Tolcide was done during or after the fracking to measure how much of this acutely toxic chemical might have been migrating into the groundwater, creeks and rivers. How on earth was AGL permitted to carry out fracking without an approved testing method in place?”

This latest revelation comes within weeks of AGL being caught out sending their flowback fluid to Newcastle contrary to a directive from Hunter Water. The whole process is a sick joke and the EPA and Minister Roberts must act swiftly and decisively to put an end to the shambles that is AGL’s coal seam gas experiment in Gloucester.”

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