



November 18, 2012

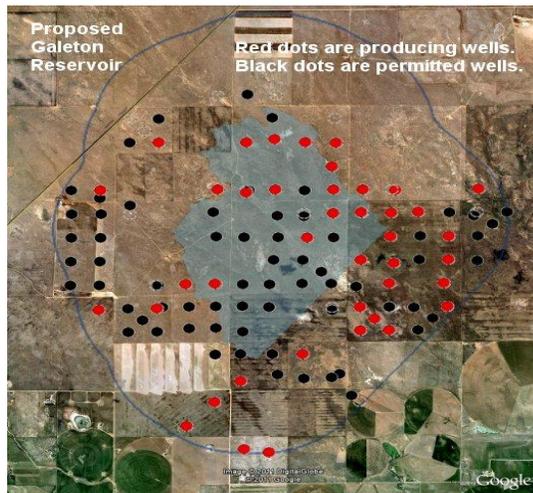
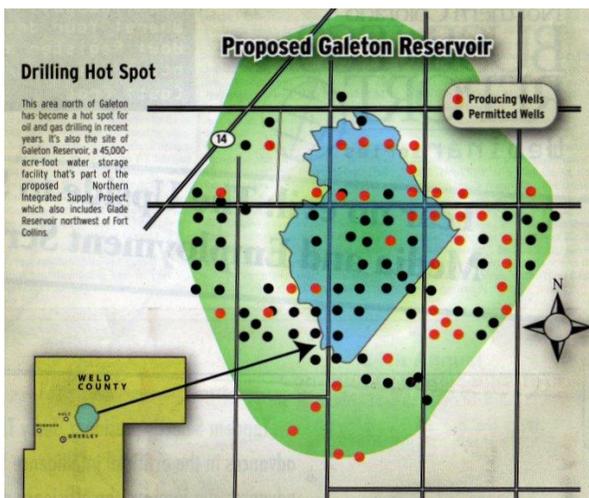
Mr. Chandler Peter
US Army Corps of Engineers
Denver Regulatory Office
9307 South Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80123

Dear Mr. Peter:

On behalf of Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper, I am writing with regards to a recent report from the Center For American Progress titled "Ensuring Public Safety by Investing in Our Nation's Critical Dams and Levees" (<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/MillerLeveesDamsREPORT-2.pdf>) which discusses the state of disrepair of America's water infrastructure.

Of specific interest is the comment, located in the first paragraph on page 6 of the report, that "the Army Corps of Engineers has also recently become concerned that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking"—an increasingly popular method of extracting natural gas from beneath the earth's surface—could undermine dam foundations and compromise their structural integrity even further". A footnote to this comment refers to an article which appeared in the Dallas Morning News in July, 2011 (<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/grand-prairie/headlines/20110731-corps-worries-that-fracking-barnett-shale-gas-wells-might-hurt-dams.ece?action=reregister>) which discusses the concerns of the Corps at length and includes the statement, "In most of Texas and several other states, the corps has declared a 3,000-foot buffer around its dams and water-control structures within which it will not allow new wells, drilling pads or pipelines".

We feel that these concerns are particularly relevant to the Galeton Reservoir component of NISP in view of the multiple fracked wells already in place on the Galeton footprint with many more wells permitted as shown in the following illustrations.



With regards to the site of the proposed Glade Reservoir, the Niobrara Shale actually uplifts and outcrops in front of the first hogback, just to the east of the Glade site, making it unlikely that drilling would take place there. And while, to the best of our knowledge, there are no permitted wells on the site of the proposed reservoir it is certainly conceivable that future drilling and fracking could take place within 3,000 feet of the proposed location of the dam. It goes without saying that failure of a dam located here would have catastrophic consequences in terms of loss of human life and attendant destruction of property.

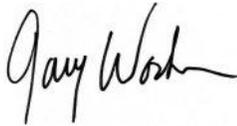
We are keenly interested to hear back from you about where the Corps stands on the issue of fracked wells at the Galeton site as well as the potential for impacts at the other NISP possible dam sites. This was not addressed in the DEIS and we feel strongly, especially considering the major potential public safety ramifications, that it must be thoroughly addressed in the Supplemental. We also request that you insert this letter into the public record.

We look forward to hearing from you about this critically important matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Speer, Board of Directors, Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper



Gary Wockner, Director, Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper
PO Box 20
Fort Collins, CO 80522
gary.wockner@savethepoudre.org

CC:

Bill McCormick, Chief of Dam Safety
Colorado Division of Water Resources
1313 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203
Bill.McCormick@state.co.us

Jeremy Franz, P.E.
CO Division of Water Resources
Dam Safety Division
810 9th Street, Suite 200
Greeley, CO 80631
jeremy.franz@state.co.us