

Press briefing teleconference on oil supplies and gasoline prices

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Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Opening statement:

Good morning everyone. Thanks for calling in.

Last year, API and America's Natural Gas Alliance engaged Battelle Memorial Institute in anticipation of working with EPA on its study of the impact of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water. EPA declined to engage in a collaborative effort.

Because we had concerns with the direction EPA seemed to be going – and had raised them with the agency without getting a constructive response – we retained Battelle to do a separate study of hydraulic fracturing and drinking water, the first part of which was a critical review of EPA's study plan.

Battelle's analysis of the plan, which we are releasing today, reinforces many of our previously stated concerns and raises new ones. It finds deficiencies in the rigor, funding, focus and stakeholder inclusiveness of EPA's plan.

We intend Battelle's report to be – and hope the agency sees it as – our continued interest in working together to produce the most scientifically sound study as possible.

A robust, thorough, careful study is important because it has the potential to affect the future course of shale energy development, which has enormous potential for improving our energy security and economy for decades to come.

We're not calling on EPA to stop its study. We're calling on them to do it right. We hope Battelle's analysis will encourage them to reconsider how they're approaching this critical work.

Now, Amy Farrell will provide ANGA's perspective.