

**Separating Fact From Fiction:  
Careful Hydrogeologic Evaluation  
May Protect Against Unfair and Baseless  
Domestic Water Supply Impact Allegations**



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# About ALWI (In Brief).....

- 💧 **Professional Hydrogeological Consultants – Expertise In Water Supply & Discharge**
- 💧 **Track Record Throughout Mid-Atlantic in Assessing Impaired Drinking Water Supplies**
- 💧 **Public Relations Acumen & Expert Witness Experience Provides for Methodical Approach**



# Forensic Hydrogeology

# Content of Our Abstract

Natural gas reserves within the Marcellus Shale occur beneath groundwater supply aquifers often marginal in capacity and variable in quality.

Water supply well owners may have lived with some combination of marginal and chronic conditions for years. Such conditions may include but are not restricted to drought susceptibility, low yield, surface water influence, poor natural quality and anthropogenic contamination by petroleum, bacteria and/or other sources. Not uncommonly in rural and economically stressed areas, such well owners may lack the financial means to address these chronic conditions themselves.

A new and well-capitalized exploratory drilling program in the neighborhood may be viewed as an opportunity to seek remuneration for costs to investigate and remedy a pre-existing condition. Consciously or otherwise, such well owners may represent their circumstance sympathetically. In some cases, the easiest solve may be for Marcellus interests to acquiesce to the allegation and assume the cost of addressing such problems.

However, dangerous precedents can be established in the eyes of local regulators, other neighbors and the public as a whole. Accepting responsibility for a truly pre-existing well problem may also entail obligations to address chronic health problems and/or property devaluation issues, which may arise consequently.

This presentation draws on project examples from our groundwater supply experience to review and discuss low-cost, minimally invasive objective methods for professionally assessing allegations of domestic water supply impacts borne of neighboring land uses, activities and resource drilling, testing and extraction practices.