

Buy out PXP

A Feb. 3 news article reveals that three U.S. House representatives are accusing not only Haliburton but also 11 other energy companies — that's right, 11 other energy companies — of pumping more than 32 million gallons of diesel fuel into the ground in 19 states during a phase of natural gas extraction called "hydraulic fracturing," in violation of the Safe Water Drinking Act.

I have researched both sides of the issue of "fracking," and the most charitable thing one can say about its safety is that it is "controversial." Look it up for yourselves on Wikipedia. On that Web page, there is a partial list of ingredients that are injected into the earth, including acetone, 1, 2, 4 trimethylbenzene, 1, 4, dioxane; acetic acid; and at least 28 other chemicals.

The drilling leases granted in these pristine headwaters of the Hoback River — and thus the Snake River — must be retired voluntarily by PXP, the company that holds them. This area is much too valuable to take a chance on for a mere drop in the bucket of our energy needs.

If they are unwilling to do so, it's time for us, especially the wealthy folks residing in the richest county in the country, to step up to the plate and pony up to prevent this ecological disaster from happening.

Income in Teton County increased 12 percent during one of the worst years of the "Great Recession." The money needed to buy out these leases is a mere pittance compared to the fabulous wealth residing in this county.

C'mon, don't let the air pollution that would result from this upwind

drilling ruin your picture-window views of the mountains like it has down in Pinedale and the Wind Rivers. Cough it up.

Jim Olson
Victor