

To: Richard Neufeld
10104-100 St.
Ft. St. John, B.C.

Mar. 24, 04

Blair Lekstrom
10300-10 St.
Dawson Creek. B.C.

From: Ole and Donna Getz
Box 1001
Tumbler Ridge, B.C.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter with concerns regarding Shell Canada Ltd and their well Shell Bullmoose B-003-G-098-P-03. On Aug. 18, 19, 20, and 21 of 2003 Shell was flaring at that site. We were living on DL 305 (The John Terry Ranch) near Tumbler Ridge. No one told us when we moved there about this well or that it was going to be flared. We met their Rover on the road several times but he failed to tell us who he worked for or what he was checking. Canfor was cutting trees on the roadside at the time so we thought he was with them. He was shocked to hear that we were living on the ranch and stayed overnight there. Haying was being done on the ranch during this time.

On Aug. 18/03 around 5:30 I was chopping wood for the cook stove. A family was coming from Ft. St. John for supper around 6:30. When we sat down for supper my arm started to itch from the elbow to the fingers. Little blisters were all over it. I thought it was bug bites so put some After Bite on it. I thought at the time that it was weird that only one arm itched. The After Bite really hurt. The next day I itched again. Ole and Jim Sorenson were working on the truck so I was in and out between the house and them. That afternoon, my daughter Kathleen Murphy and her friends came. Kathleen had to go find the horses. We visited and they went to cabin to sleep. The next day Jim came back around noon to help with the truck. Kathleen caught horses to go riding. She came to get help finding bridles and saddles for the horses. Ole and I went out with her. We got a whiff of rotten egg smell by the door. So we checked propane tank but it was O.K.. We went about 10 feet further when I felt a hot burning on my face and commented on how hot it was. We saddled horses and Kathleen took her friends riding. They left that night to go to Houston, B.C. That same night some blisters started breaking out on my face, my lungs burned and every breath tasted like battery acid. My eyes hurt, and my nose ran. I noticed Ole's eyes and nose were running also. We coughed and sneezed. On the 21st I woke up to a burning face, lungs and eyes. Ole took me into doctor. We saw the Rover and he got kind of excited and nervous when he saw my face. We went to the neighbours and found out that Shell was flaring a well. Armand gave us cards to phone Shell which we did when we got to town. The doctor thought it was a Sulphur burn on my face. He told me to come back if it got worse and to use baking soda and water on it.

The Rover came to see us that night. He was with United Safety. The next day my face was swollen so badly my eye was shut. I am enclosing a picture of what it looked like. We went back to the doctor and at that time also phoned Oil and Gas Commission, Shell in Calgary and Dan Ball in Chetwynd (the consultant). The Rover checked everyday and night. Dan Ball and John Stephanic (the Well Boss) came to see us on Saturday the 23rd. They said this shouldn't have happened and they were sorry and how could they compensate us. They said they would be back in a few days. I was extremely tired, my tears burned my face, my lungs burned. Dan and John came back on the 25th. They had a form for me to sign so their medical advisor could talk to my doctor. My face started to peel and I had terrific headaches and still extremely tired. Dan Ball came on the 27th and said he was going to Calgary for 2 weeks.

On the 28th, I phoned Kathleen. She has strep throat, bronchitis and pneumonia. She told me she had been tired and sick since she left here. Also severe headaches.

On the 29th, I went to the doctor again; He said the medical advisor told him to treat my face like frost bite. The inside of my mouth had sores in it which broke and peeled, my teeth were sore and my gums were bleeding. I was tired and wanted to sleep all the time and still had headaches.

Ole went guiding and when he got back he had a sore under his nose that took a long time to heal. He was coughing, sneezing, runny nose and tired. He went back guiding. He took lots of aspirin as he had severe headaches also.

On Sept. 11th, Shell chartered a twin engine plane and flew me to from Tumbler Ridge to Edmonton to see a couple of doctors. The one did a lung test and some feeling tests to see if their was the same amount of sensation in one arm as the other. When I came out of the room, the doctor was in another room with Lorraine Goobie from Shell who had escorted me for the day. We went to the dermatologist which consisted of a less than 5 minutes in his office, with him 5 feet away from me. He told me he could get something for my face and wrote a prescription and left. He was Dr. Schloss. We went back to Dr. Hoffman. After that we flew back to Tumbler Ridge.

Ole came back from guiding and getting sicker. Both of us coughing and have a metallic taste in our mouths. Kathleen so sick she missed so much school they asked her to leave. She had to have oxygen just walking downtown Houston and her body temperature dropped to 86 degrees. Extremely tired all the time and has a metallic taste in her mouth.

Jim noticed he was getting sicker with similar symptoms.

The Oil and Gas Commission showed up on Sept 9th. At this time the trees had golden patches all over them, and one tree across the river had died (spruce). The aspen by the house had leaves turn backwards. Constantine Vison took samples. A fellow from Tumbler Ridge was here and he said he could taste acid on his lips when he came out here. Constantine and Rich Love said they couldn't. They took pictures of my face and left. Later they said trees were sun burned and Shell was within their guidelines so

nothing could have happened. Constantine told me that I should look at the money that Shell put into my town. They spent money on hotels, restaurants and bars here. He said that an impact study of this valley was being done. When asked who was doing it, he replied Shell Canada was. I said that that was like asking the fox to count the chickens and maybe if they had stayed out of the bars this wouldn't have happened. He just laughed and shrugged. He was to get back to me but has not as yet.

It really confused me when all our tests came back normal. X-rays looked okay, my CT scan came back normal even though I was coughing blood. No one could give me answers so I started researching every chance I got. I'd get on a computer and search on the internet. I more I learned the more sad and upset I got. Sad because no one was interested in what H₂S and its flaring did to people and animals. Upset because it has been going on for over 150 years and the gas and oil companies have been allowed to cover up. The first warning in Canada was in Alberta in Turner Valley in 1922. The first sour gas well peeled paint of the buildings and ate lead fillings. Should not that have been something to look into instead of letting it go by? Or in 1952 in California and 1950 Ponza Rica, Mexico, refinery leak, 22 neighbouring people were killed and 47 hospitalized with respiratory and central nervous system symptoms. Did anyone wake up then? No. Report after report with cover-ups from the oil companies.

In reports from Kaye H Kilburn, MD, Los Angeles, California he states "Well beyond calling for epidemiologic studies, these findings imply that neighbourhoods near refineries and other industrial sites where H₂S is released deliberately or inadvertently are unsafe. Because Hydrogen sulphide is heavier than air it should never be vented into the atmosphere so it can descend downwind to repeat the tragedy of Ponza Rica and the impairments at Nipoma, California. People living near oil wells and refineries should have sensitive studies to detect neuralgic ill effects, coupled with simultaneous air monitoring for low levels of H₂S to establish the range of exposures that impair neuro behavioural functions. These dose response ranges would guide imperative steps including removal of persons from exposure, or if effects are widespread moving oil refineries to unpopulated areas."

There have been many exposures since then and still no one listens. Which is more important the revenue from gas and oil or the health of our nation? Should not research be done? Should not our Doctors be educated?

I had 4 Doctors in Tumbler Ridge look at my face and not one knew what they were looking at. The so called specialist in Edmonton didn't know what they were looking at or testing for or else they were paid not to know by Shell Canada. If this drilling is to continue in B.C., we need doctors who know what is going on. We need emergency response people who are trained to do more than put up a road block or tell people to put plastic in the smallest room in you house and stay in it until it is safe to come out.

We need to see a toxicologist. I know there are 30 in Canada but haven't located one near us yet. I haven't been able to find a cure yet but am still looking. Apparently our doctors don't know how or where to look.

We worry about Iraq and Afghanistan. What about what is happening right here. We have been allowed a silent killer to invade our country. Who is to say the next time you or your family walk out of your home that it may happen to you? You can't see it, or smell it unless it is at a low level. I guess we had better start carrying pennies around in our pockets as they will tell of exposure and are used as a diagnostic clue.

We sent our symptoms overseas to four specialists. They all said that we had an extremely heavy exposure to H2S and are lucky to be alive. We are waiting for written documentation.

My daughter, Kathleen Murphy, was 18 years old when this happened. She has been on the honour roll since kindergarten through grade 12. She received three scholarships when she graduated last June. In August she came here to visit and ride horses. She went away with a silent killer invading her body. She got strep throat, bronchitis then pneumonia. She went back to school to pick up a couple of extra courses so she could go to college or University but because of her being so sick, she missed too much school so they asked her to leave. She got herself a job and an apartment then is trying to pick up one course this semester. Now she is sick again. Her teacher was being miserable with her so I phoned the school. I hope she can make this semester. She may lose her 3 scholarships because of this.

One day she was walking downtown Houston when she felt real sick, so she called over to the clinic. They had to put her on oxygen and her body temperature dropped to 86 degrees. They don't know why.

What would you do if this was your daughter? Kathleen bought a bus ticket from her hard earned money, rode all night on the bus to come up for a meeting with Van Graig and Tom Murphy from Shell. The meeting was supposed to be about getting some answers and maybe some help. This meeting was on January 23, 2004. I am enclosing a letter from Lorraine Goobie of Shell Canada and my reply to it.

We either need to have a meeting with both of you soon or we need to go public with this.

We are tired of being sick as we have led a very healthy lifestyle. We don't smoke or drink. We eat healthy. We are tired of being lied to, deceived and ignored.

Shell wants to put another well another well near us. We are in the high danger zone again. So far, they have not started even though they were to start in February. They offered Ole the logging on the new lease, then took it away as they thought it was to steep for horses. It was after this we called our meeting to discuss the last "accident". We told them to move us out if they were going to drill this one and get us a permanent place to live.

coming next? There are tests that can be done that tell of exposures to H2S scan and blood test.

Enclosures:

Picture

Letter from Lorraine Gobbie

My reply to Lorraine Gobbie

Letter from Jim Sorenson regarding meeting with Oil and Gas Commission