

Charles Randolph

I spent 23 years in Texas, 22 years to long. In Texas I owned 10 acres of land located of FM 730 in Wise Count in the middle of the Barnett Natural Gas Shale formation. In approx 2001 when fracking took off in our location (4 natural gas wells were drilled within 2500 feet of my home). The question then was what to do with the spent fracking fluids, usually around 3,000,000 gallons per well. This fluid was trucked to older wells and pumped under pressure into the ground. no processing, no removal of any of the more hideous contaminates, nothing! Much of this waste at this time was shipped to a town on the county borders of Wise,Denton and Cook County's known as Era Texas. In 2004 there were reports that families, mostly the young children, were developing a rare brain cancer. At first it was just 4 cases then it grew to 8 then 12. All located within a radius of just a few miles of the location of the waste disposal site. But the Texas Department of Environmental Quality declared that this was not a problem because the cases were in the 3 different counties and could not be counted as a cluster. Water samples were taken and it was determined that something was in then waters that was not there before and the dumping was stopped for now. The state would not call this a cluster of cancer simple because of the artificial county lines. Then, water testing became big thing in my area. For free, the water testers would come to your rural home take sample of your water and tell you how wonderful and in our case how soft it was. This was later determined to be a clandestine effort on the part of the drillers to determine what aquifers may have been compromised by fracking drilling. But this demonstrated was then dangers of untreated fracking fluid being dumped into the environment. That was Era, I have not talked about Dish Texas in Denton county although it got better coverage account it was located just north of Ft Worth Texas. All you have to do is go to any lake or fishing stream in the central and eastern part of Texas and look for the signs that say eating fish from this lake or stream could detrimental on your health. As they continued to expand fracking drilling and actually passed laws that made it easier, thanks to my state representative Phil King, to do even less to protect the water both on the surface and below the surface this contributed to our decision to move from Texas