



SHALE SPEAK - EDITORIAL

April 27, 2010



From the Desk of Gene Powell, Publisher/Editor

Tillman of Dish – ‘All Hat & No Cattle’

by Gene Powell, Publisher/Editor, Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter

In Texas, a man who is *‘all hat and no cattle’* talks big, tells everyone how much smarter he is, but in reality, has no substance. He is all facade. That is Calvin DeWayne Tillman portraying himself as an “American Hero” and picturing himself as a ‘cowboy’ in his trips to Pennsylvania with quotes as *“my knowledge level on shale gas far outweighs most of those who work in the industry..”*¹ and telling everyone how criticized he is by the oil and gas industry which he has not been. Only our publication has criticized him and his radical anti-drilling organization.

The problem with Tillman being an “American Hero” as his own PR statement says in announcing his talk April 30th in Williamsport, PA. is that he is not even a “hero” in the DISH, Texas area, much less America, and certainly not a real cowboy. When he describes the tiny town of 181 (7-1-08) as a “Sacrifice Zone”,² there are property owners there concerned with their drop in real estate value for no authentic documented reason except Tillman’s own self-imagining, ego tours with invalid data and hype. It makes one wonder just how many ‘vacation’ days you get after seven years in the job as a federal FAA aircraft safety maintenance team inspector assigned to *American Airlines*.³ He claims he is paying his own way in New York and Pennsylvania for his weeks of ‘presentations’ to inform the “uninformed” but doesn’t say who gets his travel expense account for reimbursement.

Tillman spent, as mayor of Dish, \$15,000 (18% of the annual town’s budget) on what he claims were ‘independent’ tests run by a “nationally respected environmental engineering firm”, the Alisa Rich sole proprietorship then named *Wolf Eagle Environmental Engineers & Consultants, LLC* of

¹ [Response to Energy in Depth Press Release](#)

² [Tillman Pennsylvania Poster & PR For Williamsport April 2010.pdf](#)

³ http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/cmo/amr/media/amrdirectory.pdf Page 4

Flower Mound, Texas. He publicly stated that *“If you are suggesting that the levels detected in DISH do not pose a health risk, I am afraid that you are horribly mistaken, and there is no expert that would agree with that, even the industry extremists wouldn't make that stretch.”*¹ The truth is that there are no tests showing benzene at dangerous short-term health levels in Dish to date. The TCEQ *Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCV)* are not limits because Texas values are 10 times lower than EPA/Federal limits. TCEQ measures in parts per billion whereas the EPA/OSHA/NIOSH measure for air quality in parts per million.⁴ He continually talks of the danger of any result exceeding the annual average value of 1.4 parts per billion. He is well aware that both the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) state that if a person were exposed to 1.4 parts per billion of benzene for 70 years, that person could have a 1 in 100,000 chance of contracting cancer related to benzene exposure. The short term value for benzene in Texas is 180 parts per billion. If you tested each 6th day for a year, you then could compare the data to the value of 1.4 ppbv. The new AutoGC monitor at Dish began 4-19-2010 and shows no short term test for benzene above .4 ppbv⁵ which agrees with all the other tests run by independent and state agencies except the one Tillman chose and blew the town money on. But that still will not satisfy Tillman or his new *Texas Oil & Gas Accountability Project (OGAP)* group of anti-drilling absolutists funded by Washington, D. C. based Earthworks. Even today they were screaming over the internet that there was a “massive release of toxins in Dish from the Barnett Shale” overnight 4-26-2010 citing a 1-hour measurement of 378.39 parts per billion volume ethane at 2 a.m. but what they do not tell the public is that the *Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Air Monitoring Comparison Value for 1-hour Short Term Health* is 10,000 parts per billion volume and for odor is 180,000 parts per billion volume.⁶

The owner of Wolf Eagle Environmental Engineers & Consultants who ran the ‘independent’ tests and studies, that Tillman uses to condemn the air quality of his town, has been proven to be highly questionable in motives based on the statements and actions by the Wolf Eagle owner Rich. She has stated that she does not have a Ph.D. as she advertises⁷ and claimed and she had to change her company name because she is not nor has ever been an engineer therefore could not use the word in her company name as required by the *Texas Board of Professional Engineers*. She is still the subject of an ongoing investigation by Texas state authorities. Our research took care of her falsified educational and professional qualifications then she impugned what little was left of her reputation before a large audience at the *Air Quality Committee* meeting in Fort Worth on March 31st by saying that *“I am anti-drilling and my mission is to prove that gas drilling is harmful to public health.”* Rich explained that when she begins a study she expects to find harmful pollutants in the air being emitted from natural gas production facilities – the only question is just how bad the numbers will be.

⁴ [No Benzene Threat in North Texas from Gas Well Operations](#)

⁵ <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/barnettshale/bshale-main>

⁶ http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/tox/monitoring/comparison_values_monitoring.xls

⁷ <http://sb.eaa-assoc.org/users/Alisa.RichPhD>

All her test results have been questioned by independent engineering firms and Texas state toxicologists.⁸ Her air quality test results are those Tillman wants to tell you about.

With the tests he has been showing the small crowds discredited, now Tillman wants to tell you his water well is bad caused by the drilling and production activity. Pennsylvania's Andy Maykuth from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (who recently visited Dish, Texas) probably said it best⁹ when Tillman first claimed to him that his water had been contaminated by "industry contaminants that showed up in tests of his well". Upon investigation, Maykuth reported "*Tillman's water tested positive for traces of three contaminants, all below federal legal limits for public water: styrene was 3,700 times below the limit; ethylbenzene was 28,000 times below the limit, and xylenes were 47,393 times below the legal limit.*"

I interviewed several persons this week from the Ponder/Dish area. One was Jeff Brown, who has been ranching in the Ponder area for years. He said most all of the older families in the area told him they have eventually died of cancer occurring decades before any drilling or the presence of any gas compressors. When asked about the cause they suspected, he said it was all the now-considered dangerous pesticides that were used decades ago, usually by crop dusters, some who used Clark Field in Dish. Everyone he knew in the Ponder/Dish area drank bottled water. We researched the EPA website and it showed cancer risk for Denton County at 28.741 per million from inhalation.¹⁰

We asked about Calvin Tillman and what the locals thought about him and Jeff's reply was they didn't. Tillman's name just didn't come up in conversations around town and they did not even know he was traveling back east giving talks about Dish. The only ones who talked about Tillman and air or water pollution were the anti-drilling activists and the folks who worked in the energy business.

It is curious that there always seems to be only 25 persons living in Dish involved in any show of concern about air or odor quality including Tillman and his family of four, whether it is filling out a check list health form or giving blood and urine samples to be tested by the CDC or a 'big town' meeting where about half the 50 persons who fill the town hall are anti-drilling activists from out of town or out of state.

Tillman is *all show and no substance* and someone who moved to Clark, Texas, (now called DISH) in 2003. The town of 181 (7-1-2008) voted to change the name from its founder, Landis Clark, to DISH (all caps) on November 16, 2005, after the satellite TV company, *DISH Network* offered each resident free basic television service for ten years and a free DVR. Only 12 citizens showed up at the council meeting to support the measure. The deal was worth at about \$4,500 for each of the 55 homes, at that time, for the then 125 residents according to *EchoStar Communications Corp. (DISH)*, which operates the Dish Network satellite TV system. Bottom line – they sold out their town founder's name and short heritage for cash – costing *EchoStar* about \$250,000.

⁸ [Editorial – Calvin Tillman – Mayor With Discredited Tests – Cried Wolf Too Many Times 4-12-2010 PBSN](#)

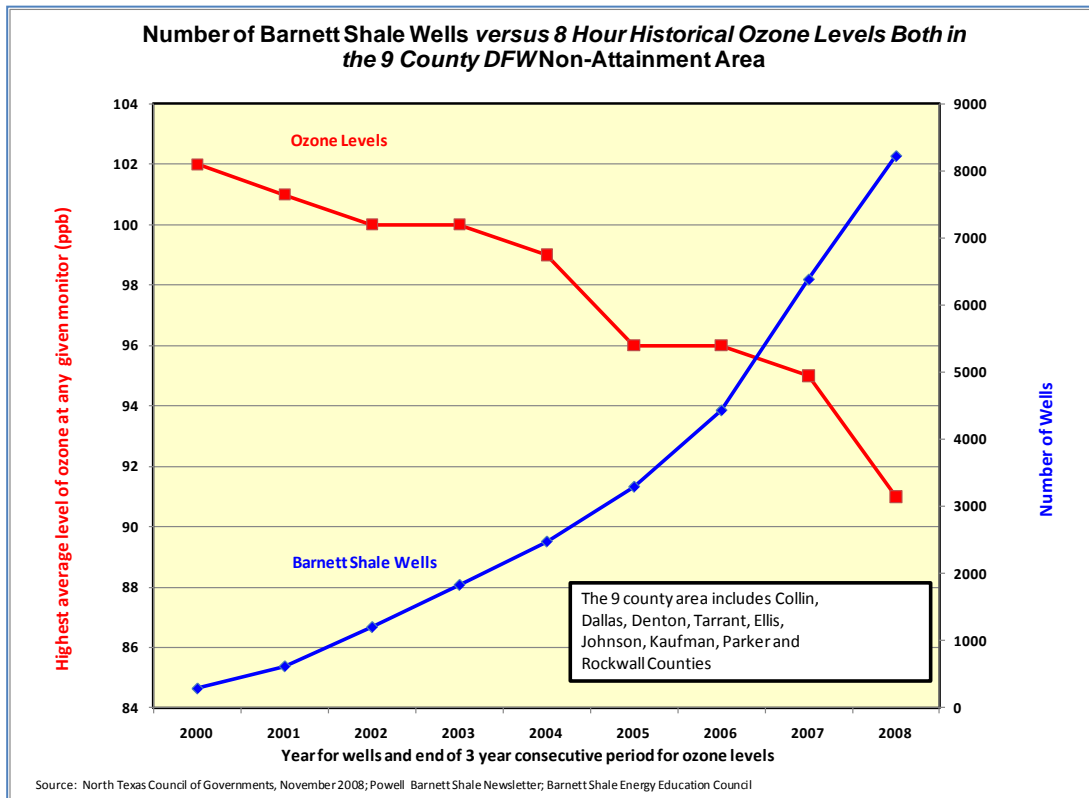
⁹ [Texas town warns of woes from gas exploration April 16 2010](#)

¹⁰ <http://www.epa.gov/Denton County Texas EPA Sites & Cancer Risks 2002>

Another quote from the April 16, 2010, Maykuth article¹¹ may contain the answer for Tillman's trips and trying to destroy the town's image. Lloyd Burgess, whose 30 acre farm adjoins one compressor in Dish stated, when talking about the gas pipeline companies going by the small town said: "They just ought to buy the whole town". Seems that's what it is all about. The chance of \$\$ again for the DISH citizens who don't own mineral interests.

Tillman also mentions Al Armendariz' report¹² early last year where Armendariz used pollution data from oil wells in a northern county and multiplied it by the number of dry gas wells (no oil) to 'figure' that the gas wells in the DFW area polluted more than all the cars, trucks and airplanes. The data from the testing in the DFW area by the TCEQ and tests from the four AutoGC (automatic gas chromatographs) that sample the air 22 of every 24 hours show that not to be the case and that there is very little air pollution from the gas wells when tested for the 47 volatile organic compounds (VOC).

Our following graph was presented last year of the official ozone measurements by year in the 9 county nonattainment area of Dallas/Fort Worth showing the ozone level dropping as the number of Barnett Shale wells increased each year. We rest our case – Tillman of DISH – 'All Hat & No Cattle'.



Michael E. (Gene) Powell, Jr., Fort Worth, 72, is Publisher/Editor of the *Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter*[®], two weekly online newsletters on the Barnett and Emerging other shales in America. He has been in the oil & gas industry for 44 years and is an environmentalist who believes that oil and gas wells can co-exist in a clean air environment such as is done in the Fort Worth and north Texas Area of the Barnett Shale. Mr. Powell is active in meetings and symposiums despite having to be on liquid oxygen 24/7 for the last five years with COPD. No one is more concerned about air quality than he is. The *Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter*[®] is owned by Powell and Will Brackett and is independent from any industry influence. Its subscribers are from all aspects of the country including mineral owners, environmentalists, oil and gas companies, Wall Street analysts and thousands of persons interested in their research and news analysis in shale development. None of the owners or editors of the newsletter own any stock in any public company operating in the shales.

¹¹ [Texas town warns of woes from gas exploration April 16 2010](#)

¹² [Tillman Pennsylvania Poster & PR For Williamsport April 2010.pdf](#)