Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in response to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency findings, which link the shale gas extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing to groundwater contamination in Pavilion, Wyoming.

Hinchey is a leader in the effort to protect drinking water and the environment from the risks of hydraulic fracturing. He is a co-author of the FRAC Act, which would mandate public disclosure of chemicals used in frack fluid and allow the EPA to regulate fracking activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The congressman also authored the appropriations language that led to the current EPA study on hydraulic fracturing.

"Despite the facts, the shale gas industry has continually asserted that fracking has never caused groundwater contamination. Today's report from the Environmental Protection Agency answers that false rhetoric with real facts. As scores of citizens from Dimock, Pennsylvania to Pavilion Wyoming can attest, hydraulic fracturing poses a serious and direct threat to drinking water and should not hold a special exemption from our nation's basic environmental laws like the Safe Drinking Water Act."