

2016

Quake

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Quake

Abstract

beyond the groundwater contamination

now earthquakes in colorado, arkansas

the swath of states between alabama and montana

Disciplines

Poetry

Comments

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Small Buried Things

Debra Marquart

I. Quake

beyond the groundwater contamination

now earthquakes in colorado, arkansas

the swath of states between alabama and montana

a sixfold increase over twentieth century levels

at least a dozen quakes last year in northern ohio

one measuring up to 4.8 on the richter scale

speculation about the 30,000 disposal sites

where fracking wastewater is deposited

re-injected for final disposal

into a deeper, unstable layer known

as basement rock

and speculation about fracking itself

the deep underground explosions to extract oil

the water causing shifting plates, lubricating faults

look for damage to homes

look for reports of contaminated drinking water

look for increases in breast cancer, miscarriages,
birth defects

we knew we couldn't say we didn't know ground zero

and this just in: the air force reports

150 minutemen silos still rest underground

honeycombed deep below

in northwestern north dakota

embedded in the fracking zone

in news reports, the commander of the air base says,

we certainly can co-exist with the oil industry

in news reports, the petroleum council vice president says,

we're communicating about how we share our territory

in news reports, the air force commander says,

the drilling frenzy has presented no ill-effects to the ICBMs

the public can be assured

ultra-sensitive instruments possessed by the air force

can detect seismic activity as far away as mexico

capable of tracking even the slight vibrations

caused by the simplest of thunderstorms