Info on deep gas wells - from my brother who is an Engineer with experience in this field.

Anyway, deep gas wells will (obviously) take longer to drill and have (I think) more of an impact on the surface since trucks and etc. will be coming and going for a longer period of time than a shallower oil well...a lot of the natural gas coming form the tight formations in Wyoming and Montana needs to be 'fractured' to get the gas to flow throw the tight sandstone (think hard chalk) ...that means more trucks and equipo in addition to the normal drilling rig/mud trucks/vacuum trucks/Halliburton cement vehicles/Schlumberger wireline units/etc that will need to transit regularly to the site to make a productive well (or wells...I guarantee they won't drill just one!).

So...saying that deep gas won't have as much of an impact than a shallower zone on surface and subsurface water quality just doesn't make sense. Sure, once the wells are in there may be 10,000 feet between the gas production zone and the lowest water aquifer but the pipes can still provide vertical communication between the zones if, let's say, the squeeze job (cement holding the casing to the sides of the drilled hole) fails over time or any of a bunch of other things that can happen.

That said, my main concern would be during the drilling, not during the production of the natural gas. Once a field is producing their overall impact is a lot less than during the drilling process... Jeez. Can we PLEASE just get away from our addiction to hydrocarbons?!?