

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GAS DRILLING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Gas drilling is currently happening in 40 states in the U.S.A. and Pennsylvania is one of them. We have a large shale deposit here that is called **The Marcellus Shale**, and many gas drilling companies are eager to drill all over the state to get at the gas they believe is in the shale. Many landowners have leased their land to these companies for the purpose of drilling. Gov. Rendell has just opened up 75,000 acres of pristine forest for the purpose of gas drilling. **Here is what you need to know about gas drilling:**

Halliburton developed a process called “**hydraulic fracturing**” or “**fracking**” to get gas from deep in the ground. Five (5) to nine (9) **million** gallons of clean water, sand, 171 products, and 645 chemicals (some secret and toxic to humans and animals) are forced into the well. This causes a cold explosion to occur deep in the shale. When this happens, the shale cracks and gas is released. Some of this polluted water will stay underground and can (and has) migrated into aquifers, wells, and watersheds. The water that does come back to the surface is highly toxic and can even be radioactive (there is a lot of radon in the shale). This wastewater is held in open, lined pits and it stays in these pits until it can be removed to a treatment center. Wildlife is attracted to this water because it is very salty from the chemicals and animals will die from this exposure. The gas industry did a study of an area in Wyoming with a high concentration of wells and found that the deer population had declined by 50% in that area. There have been many accidental spills across the country and here in PA, and this polluted water has entered ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. Also, each well is constantly venting and flaring. This causes severe air pollution that can travel up to two hundred miles in any direction the wind is blowing. There have also been several explosions. One of these explosions in PA spewed toxic matter 75 feet into the air and continued doing so for half a day before the drilling crew could tame the flow of the explosive gas. For each well that is drilled, the land is cleared, many large trucks (that run back and forth 24 hours a day) bring in all the materials needed. The gas companies will take the water from whatever source they can get it from....lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers...and that water is gone from that source forever. And remember, it takes millions of gallons of water to frack just one well....and each well can be fracked several times. **Halliburton’s gas well drilling process “hydraulic fracturing” is EXEMPT from the “Safe Drinking Water Act”, “The Clean Water Act”, “The Clean Air Act”, “The Right-to-Know-Act”, and other protections. They are exempt from “The Superfund Act” as well.**

The EPA will conduct a comprehensive research study to investigate the potential adverse impact that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health. And the EPA has a “tipline” ...a way for citizens to contact the EPA directly about water, drilling and health issues, especially if they already have wells on their land.

In some areas where wells have been polluted, homeowners can actually set their tap water on fire with a match.

The gas companies involved in our area are Halliburton and Exxon-Mobil, Cabot, Chesapeake, Stone, Hess and their foreign partners . **These companies have begun deployment within the Watershed region for the Delaware River Basin. There is currently a moratorium on drilling in this very sensitive area, as the Delaware Watershed provides clean drinking water for 17 million people. We do not know if this moratorium will stay in place.**

The residents of Dimock, PA, have filed a federal suit because the drilling in that town has polluted many wells and their aquifer. Damascus Citizens has filed multiple legal actions that challenge the

failure of the Delaware River Basin Commission to review fifteen “exploratory wells” within the “Special Protection Waters” of the Upper Delaware River Basin Watershed.

New York City & Syracuse have a de facto state “BAN” on gas drilling – NYC-DEP reports “catastrophic consequences” to the watershed.

Our community is NOT protected from the effects of drilling. Several properties surrounding Paupackan Lake Estates have leased their land for future drilling.

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ISSUE THAT CONFRONTS ALL OF US IN PENNSYLVANIA. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO GET INFORMED. THERE ARE SEVERAL WEBSITES THAT YOU CAN GO TO FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER:

www.DamascusCitizens.org

www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org

www.CatskillMountainKeeper.org

www.NYH2O.org

Also check:

YouTube...Gas Drilling Truth...The Real Impact

The film, Gaslands, by Josh Fox, a Pennsylvanian, is MUST SEE!
(this film was recently shown to a group of over 150 people in Honesdale. It can be seen on HBO on Demand. It is an excellent overview of this entire issue).

The CD entitled “What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Production” by Theo Colborn Ph.D.
(4 copies will be at the office - please return them when you are done so that others can borrow it).