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FEB 10 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Alice Zinnes [azinnes@mindspring.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:42 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: James, Everette; Cornelius, George; Biehler, Allen D.; Redding, Russell; Vito, Sandi; Austen, Douglas; Roe, Carl; Cawley, James H.; Franco, Barbara; Cooper, Donna; vchinchi@msn.com; wnha@dishmail.net; rjmanfredi@msn.com; dstrong@clearnet.net; mwhite@pasen.gov; cgeorge@pahouse.net; shutchin@pahousegop.com
Subject: 25 Code Chapter 96, Wastewater Treatment Requirements

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Review Board:

RE: 25 Code Chapter 96, Wastewater Treatment Requirements

Although hydraulic fracking will bring PA much needed tax dollars, as well as profits to a few large landowners, I believe, based on the many accidents that already have destroyed aquifers throughout our country, that your Board should enact a moratorium on natural gas drilling within any sensitive watershed, until further study on safety mechanisms can be made. PA is so rich in natural gas, and currently our country has an over-supply of natural gas, that there is no reason to jump into drilling everywhere in the state at once. Just one accident can cause irreparable damage. Let us be prudent and see whether the new state regulations actually are successful at preventing accidents in less sensitive areas, before threatening our water, our most value resource. Below are numerous links to very informative photographs, articles, studies, lectures, and video, along with a brief description of the information contained in each link.

To find an infra-red photo of the hydrocarbons emitted from drill sites, go to http://www.fweekly.com:80/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1994:the-big-takeover&catid=76:metropolis&Itemid=377 . Please scroll down the article for the photo. Many of these hydrocarbons are benzene, a leukemia-causing carcinogen.

For an article posted Nov. 10, 2009 on the radioactive wastewater brought up by drilling, go to <http://www.alternet.org/story/143850/> .

At <http://essentialdissent.blogspot.com/search/label/Gas%20Leasing> you'll find an incredibly informative lecture given by Prof. Ron Bishop, a bio-chemistry professor at SUNY, Oneonta, on exactly how fracking is done, what chemicals are used and why, and how the radiation and toxic chemicals originally housed in the shale are brought up to the aquifer and surface area. The information is digestible and not easily debunked. It is quite frightening.

A study, made public in the fall of 2008, on the social and economic effects of gas drilling on local communities can be found at headwaterseconomics.org/energy/. This study gives specific examples of how gas extraction is currently affecting two counties on Colorado's West Slope. It says, "On the positive side, energy development on the West Slope has created new economic opportunities, reduced unemployment, spurred rapid in-migration, and raised wages for many workers. On the negative, fast growth has exacerbated inflation, housing, and commuting pressures; contributed to a growing wage and wealth gap; and made it more difficult for other industries to thrive."

A 36-page report, put together by the Urban Design Lab of the Earth Institute of Columbia University is an incredibly thorough analysis of the natural gas issue. It has amazing photos of the Dimock, PA drilling sites, some incredible statistics (like the Delaware River provides water to 34% of NJ, 42% of

PA, 81.5% of DE, and 35% of NY), and looks at all sides of the issue: environmental, political, economic, social, etc. Here's the link:

<http://www.osiny.org/custom/HancockAndTheMarcellusShale.pdf>

For an article regarding the air pollution caused by compressor stations (or mini-refineries set up in local communities), please go to: <http://www.phillyimc.org/en/markwest-compressor-station-spray-natural-gas-residential-area-20-hours-company-calls-it-operational>

To read about earthquakes very likely caused by gas drilling, go to:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_texas_earthquakes_drilling

Please go to www.WaterUnderAttack.com to see video clips of a film that just won the Special Jury prize in the Sundance Film festival. This film documents what has already happened out West and in Pennsylvania. You'll find kitchen faucet water from which you can light a match, well water that creates plastic when blow-torched, and people and animals getting very sick. You'll also find interviews with scientists and politicians.

For the most extensive and up-to-date informative available on the web, go to www.damascuscitizens.org .

-- Alice Zinnes

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