

3042

My name is J. William Inslee. I live in Valley Township and have been a resident of Chester County my whole life. I am generally supportive of natural gas as a relatively clean energy resource in the transition to renewable energy sources. Now I am going to tell you, respectfully, I hope, how to do your job.

Fracking has brought an old human habit, and now American bad habit, into the consideration of natural gas as a resource for our good. This old habit is to take what one wants and leave the residue of that act for another day. All native Americans have experienced the results of this. The plains buffalo, American eagles and the Schuylkill shad are among many creatures that have born the brunt of this habit. Pennsylvania's heritage of defunct coal mines and dumps and injured waters also bears witness to this. Now fracking opens a new access to riches in the earth subject to the same human bad habit, to take with the least eye to later effect, which clouds the value of potentially clean natural gas.

The fracking industry is operating so far much as if in a recreation of the "untamed" west. For various political motives, which seem to be related to immediate electoral gratification, there has been little but a "go get it boys" atmosphere fostered by our state government. This is an industry with so much to gain and this is a state with so much to lose. From the industry there has been a minimum of self regulation or self monitoring, but a lot of commercial and lobbying promotion. From the state there has been belated movement toward demand for clarity or accountability in the taking of the resource. What you are now doing at the DEP is critical to altering this situation

These particular issues at hand in your rule making should never have been at question:

-This public comment period should be at least 120 days and hearings need to be available where drilling is happening or is likely.

-Well water in the area of drilling should be tested before industry drilling. Any water source which is altered should be restored to the highest drinking standard. All data should be easily available publicly in one place and all data must be standardized. I know what I think "freshwater" is, but you must define it.

-Anything going into or coming out of an industry well should be controlled in a closed containment system and disposed of as a potentially hazardous material with appropriate analysis and treatment for longterm disposal or purification off site. None of this material should be surface applied or buried on site. Much of the industry already acknowledges that on site pits are no good for in or out materials and never were.

-All existing wells, abandoned or otherwise, must be identified. The industry must confirm this for any area considered for drilling – any abandoned or orphaned wells should be sealed. All information should be easily available to the public in one place.

Thank you for assuming the job before you and thank you for helping us all to curb bad habits which can haunt us.

January 9, 2014

2014 JAN 22 PM 3:52

RECEIVED
IRRC