

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Special Report: National People's Oil and Gas Summit, Pittsburgh 11/19-21/10

Pittsburgh Bans Natural Gas Drilling

Adopts first-in-the-nation ordinance; elevates right of community to decide, not corporations

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
Pennsylvania Community Rights Network

PITTSBURGH, November 16, 2010 — Today, the Pittsburgh City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance banning corporations from conducting natural gas drilling in the city.

The ordinance was drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) at the invitation of Councilman Bill Peduto and was introduced by Councilman Doug Shields.

Pittsburgh's first-in-the-nation ordinance confronts the threat of Marcellus Shale drilling – an activity permitted by the state which allows corporations to site drilling activities over the wishes of a community.

Energy corporations are setting up shop in communities across Pennsylvania to drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. The gas extraction technique known as "fracking" has been cited as a threat to surface and groundwater and has been blamed for fatal explosions, the contamination of drinking water, local rivers and streams. Collateral damage includes lost property value, ingestion of toxins by livestock, drying up of mortgage loans for prospective home buyers and threatened loss of organic certification for farmers in affected communities.

Councilman Shields stated, "This ordinance recognizes and secures expanded civil rights for the people of Pittsburgh and it prohibits activities which would violate those rights. It protects the authority of the people of Pittsburgh to pass this ordinance by undoing corporate privileges that place the rights of the people of Pittsburgh at the mercy of gas corporations."

Shields added, "With this vote we are asserting the right of the city to make critical decisions to protect our health, safety

and welfare. We are not a colony of the state and will not sit quietly by as our city gets drilled. We encourage communities across the region to take this step and join with us to elevate the rights of communities and people over corporations."

CELDF's Ben Price, who is engaging with communities across the state seeking to protect themselves from drilling, said, "Communities are coming to recognize that our state laws and government are not in place to protect their interests but rather the interests of private corporations."

Price applauded the city for taking a stand on behalf of community rights. "Some will say that the municipality doesn't have the authority to ban this noxious practice associated with gas drilling. The only way that's true is if the state has the authority to strip the residents of their rights and it doesn't."

Under the ordinance, corporations that violate the ordinance or that seek to drill in the city will not be afforded "personhood" rights under the U.S. or Pennsylvania Constitution, nor will they be afforded protections under the Commerce Clause or Contracts Clause under the federal or state constitution.

In addition, the ordinance recognizes the legally enforceable Rights of Nature to exist and flourish. Residents of the city shall possess legal standing to enforce those rights on behalf of natural communities and ecosystems.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, located in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has been working with people in Pennsylvania since 1995 to assert their fundamental rights to democratic local self-governance and to enact laws which end destructive and rights-denying corporate action aided and abetted by state and federal governments.

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Photo by Iona

People came from 26 states, The Onondaga Nation, Canada and Germany to share their stories, ideas and goals on combating the horrors of natural gas drilling and create a plan to deal with this rapidly-growing issue.

National Gathering of Anti-Fracking Activists in Pittsburgh Days After Ban on Drilling is Enacted There

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

People are sick and sick of natural gas drilling ruining their communities, their health, their land, their property values and all that they hold dear.

I and over 200 others went to the seventh People's Oil and Gas Summit sponsored by Earthworks in Pittsburgh on November 19th and 20th because OE has been following hydraulic fracturing for a long, long time, this was relatively close to home, I was able to work out my work schedule to attend and I am always rejuvenated when I'm with sister/fel-

low environmentalists.

This conference was organized by people from the West who have been fighting gas and oil drilling malpractices for decades and now the East is getting involved so this meeting was very important because it brought together the entire country, including people from Germany (a film crew), The Onondaga Nation of New York and Canada.

BUT this issue is not just environmental – it is about health, politics, the economy, human rights, nature's rights, democracy, property values, social values, clean water, clean air – things that matter to everyone.

I took notes furiously and will do my best to give you the essence of the meeting. The speakers were excellent and moving, the visuals outstanding and the spirit of the audience hushed and attentive. I was only able to attend one of two days but everything is on the Earthworks' Web site: earthworks-action.org.

Hydraulic fracturing to force natural gas out of the Earth has the potential to contaminate nearly all of the drinking water in our country so people everywhere need to get involved. I hope to see you all at next year's gathering and I hope to be able to stay for the entire event next time.

Panel 1: Health Impacts from Drilling, Fracking, Waste Pits and Gas Production



Photo by Iona

(left to right) John Fenton (Pavillion, Wyoming, in movie Gasland); Lisa Parr (severe health effects for her and her eight-year-old daughter in Texas); Wilma Subra (health surveys done in Texas and Wyoming); Wes Wilson (filling in for Theo Colburn) and "Texas Sharon" ("I never wanted to be Texas Sharon").

John Fenton of Pavilion, Wyoming, said he has experienced "horrible impacts from shoddy workmanship" and that Wyoming has had nearly every corner touched by gas drilling. There are 24 gas wells on his property, some as close as 250 feet to his ranch.

Gas company representatives told him they would be "good neighbors" by providing jobs and making their community rich but Fenton said they only made themselves rich. The contaminated dust blows all over the dry land. "You can smell it, you can taste it, it drips from the air," he says. We're out there working in it, too. They are sacrificing the young men who are working. "This can't go on in this country; it's people like us who are going to make this go away."

He pointed to a map of the area where he lives and explained that the gas wells are so thick that "I didn't

See Panel 1 on page 3

Panel 2: Community Socio-Economic Impacts of Natural Gas Development



"When driving on the gravel Clarkelen Road, down the center of the haze, tractor-trailers rush past trailing thick plumes of dust that make it impossible to see oncoming traffic."

Jill Morrison of the Powder River Basin Resource Council in Wyoming, told everyone about the social problems communities encounter when gas drilling operations come to town. Crime rates rise, roads deteriorate, there are more sleepy truck drivers threatening normal drivers, more sex crimes are committed.

One example of this was discussed in the *Casper Star Tribune* on August 20, 2007: "Many of those workers are considered to be the riskiest kind of driver – young men willing to take chances and reluctant to wear seat belts. They're also bringing more alcohol and drugs onto the highways and they gobble up hotel rooms, forcing sleepy travelers in some cases to stay behind the wheel. 'There definitely are a lot of guys who are pushing the envelope,' said Brian Bragonier, a Wyoming Highway Patrol trooper who was stationed near the heart of one of the state's busiest natural gas fields at Wamsutter."

Another example is road dust, as chronicled April 6, 2005 in the *Star-Tribune*: "From a distance, the entire valley is under a long, dense haze. And when driving on the gravel Clarkelen Road, down the center of the haze, tractor-trailers rush past trailing thick plumes of dust that make it impossible to see oncoming traffic."

"It's a health issue, not only for people but for crops, livestock and the wildlife," said Mildred Marquiss, who has lived with her husband on Clarkelen Road for 18 years. Commissioners had set aside about \$5 million in the annual budget for the road and bridge department. However, the county has a limited number of trucks that can haul dust-controlling material from outside the county, Weakly said. Also, the county is scrambling for what seems to be a limited supply of roto-mill, or asphalt."

See Panel 2 on page 4

Learn, Feel, Think and Act

When Civilization Comes Crashing Down

From Endgame by Derrick Jensen (2006)

There are a number of reasons why my analysis of whether the urban poor could survive without civilization is bullshit. The first is that anytime anyone makes a prediction, that person should expect to be wrong. I can no more predict the outcome of such a complex set of actions as the end of civilization – whatever that means – than I could have predicted the Tampa Bay Devil Rays would lose more than a hundred games in 2002. Well, okay, I might have been able to predict that latter.

I do not know what will happen when civilization comes down, whether through ecological collapse or the efforts of those humans who resist it. Will the urban poor starve? With the removal of current power structures – which is certainly part of what I'm talking about – along with the cops who keep these power structures in place, will the poor take food from the rich? Will cops become even more violent than they already are? Will cities turn into battlegrounds?

Or will the poor form collectives to take care of themselves and their neighbors, and take idle land from the rich to grow their own food? Will the poor be able to keep the food they grow? Will they be able to stay alive until their first crops come in? Will the rich hire (or convince) police to keep the poor from doing this? Will police do this simply on principle? Will police take the food for themselves? What will be the response on the part of the poor?

Further, will violence against the natural world get worse? Will it shift its locus from the colonies

closer to the heart of empire?

I was recently in New England, and someone there commented that local trees had grown back over the last hundred years. He took that as a good sign: the people of the region had finally learned to not deforest their own backyards. I took it more as a sign of the increased reach of civilization: technological and social innovation have enabled these Yankees to deforest the globe – when they want wood fiber, they now come calling to someone else's backyard.

The point is that when global trade collapses – global trade is another part of civilization that needs to go – if these people want fiber, they will once again cut the trees closest to them. But they won't be able to reach around the world. Will that inability be a good thing? I think so.

But the real point is that I don't know what will happen.

Here's what I do know: the global industrial economy is the engine for massive environmental degradation and massive human (and nonhuman) impoverishment. The more this economy can be slowed, the less damage will be caused to the world and the better the planet will be able to continue to support human (and nonhuman) life.

I also know that right now none of these urban poor die of starvation. They die of colonialism.

As I mentioned before, while three hundred and fifty million people go hungry in India, former granaries in that country export tulips and dog food to Europe. While these same hundreds of millions starve, "their" government



attempts to dump sixty million tons of grain into the ocean, because it cannot find export markets for that grain, and because it will not distribute food to those who cannot pay.

Seventy-eight percent of the countries reporting child malnutrition export food. During the much-publicized famine in Ethiopia during the 1980s, that country exported green beans to Europe. During the infamous potato famine, Ireland exported grain to England (and part of the reason the potato blight took hold in the first place was that the Irish were pushed to the poorest land).

Sure, there are too many people on the planet. Someday there will be fewer. But right now there is enough food to go around, enough, in fact, to make everyone fat: 4.3 pounds of food per person per day, around the world. This despite the exportation of non-food crops like

coffee, tobacco, tulips, opium, and cocaine grown on land used for food production before the (often-forced) entry of the global economy, land that will be used again for local food production once the global economy collapses.

This also despite the use of so much land for nonproductive ends such as roads and parking lots. Pavement now covers over 60,000 square miles just in the United States. That's two percent of the surface area and 10 percent of the arable land.

Here's another reason my analysis of whether the urban poor would suffer more from civilization's crash than its continuation is bullshit, and this forms the twelfth premise of this book:

There are no rich people in the world, and there are no poor people. There are just people. The rich may have lots of pieces of green paper that many pretend are worth

something – or their presumed riches may be even more abstract: numbers on hard drives at banks – and the poor may not. These "rich" claim they own land, and the "poor" are often denied the right to make that same claim. A primary purpose of the police is to enforce the delusions of those with lots of pieces of green paper. Those without the green papers generally buy into these delusions almost as quickly and completely as those with. These delusions carry with them extreme consequences in the real world.

But really there are just people. None rich. None poor. Except in our minds.

And so people starve. When I predicted the urban poor might suffer under civilization's collapse, I may have been falling once again under the spell of the abuser who says we cannot survive without him.

When civilization falls, many of those who die – or at least those who starve, which is what we're talking about right now – will be those who continue to believe what may be the central delusion of this culture, the delusion that there are rich and there are poor, that monetary wealth – and by extension food, and land (which means food) – is held by anything other than social contract and force.

If the "poor" do not fall under this spell, and they can convince enough others it's not immoral to defend themselves from the hired guns of the (formerly) rich, there is a good chance they will survive.

My statement that ownership is merely based on shared social delu-

sion is not entirely accurate. First, we all know that the civilized notion of ownership is in truth based on force: the acquisition and maintenance of the property of the rich is the central motivating factor impelling nearly all state violence.

But there's a deeper point to be made here, having to do with the mixing of one's body and the soil. When I say that I'm living on Tolowa land, I don't mean to imply that their ownership of this land is delusional, or even that it is based on social convention.

Quite the contrary. They belong to the land, as the land belongs to them. It is still ownership, but not in the way that the civilized mean it.

Typically when we the civilized speak of owning something, it means a person has the right to do what he wishes with it, to destroy it if he so pleases. It's my computer, so if I want to throw it off a cliff, nobody can stop me.

But this other type of ownership has to do with responsibilities, and it has to do with the deal we spoke of earlier between predator and prey. If you live on a piece of land – if you own a piece of land – if you consume the flesh that is on that land, you are now responsible for the continuation of that land and its health.

You are now responsible for the health of all the various communities who share that land with you. And because members of this community will consume your flesh, too, they will be just as responsible for the continuation and health of your community. At that point you will own the land, and it will own you.

WORK WANTED: TYPING – TO HELP KEEP THIS PAPER GOING!

Fast, accurate, excellent editing skills if desired: \$15 an hour. Contact Iona to make arrangements: 814-259-3680.

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The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

Our Goal: To provide people with news to help bring their hearts and lives back into harmony with Nature and with Most High God and his Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, Most High's Council of Elders as found below. We are also a community of activists, writers, poets and others who care about the future of the planet and we work together to nurture each other in various ways.

Our Mission: To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate, courageous and creative.

The Dream: Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish.

Masthead: We say "Volume 10" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name ten years ago. In 1995 she wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion of that work. The masthead photo is an ice-covered branch from a tree on the land where the publisher lives in Shade Gap, PA.

Most High's Council of Elders

LOVE	PATIENCE	COMFORT
TRUTH	TOLERANCE	HONESTY
WISDOM	JUSTICE	THANKS
COUNSEL	FAIRNESS	TRUST
UNDERSTANDING	JOY	CONFIDENCE
KINDNESS	CHARITY	HOPE
COMPASSION	GENEROSITY	SECURITY
PEACE	HONOR	MERCY
MODESTY	FRIENDSHIP	CHIVALRY
HUMILITY	GIVING	RESPECT
INNOCENCE	RECEIVING	GENTLENESS
FORGIVENESS	RESPONSIBILITY	GOODNESS
RIGHTEOUSNESS	SHARING	CHOICE...etc.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: 10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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I no longer believe we can use the system to change the system. Let it all fall apart. I no longer want to live in their world so I must create/find my own.

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

Panel 1 *continued from page 1*

John Fenton's Story



John Fenton's "friendly neighborhood" gas drillers.



John Fenton

Photos courtesy John Fenton

have room for our home." His home now looks like it's in the middle of an industrial park.. There is a tank 220 feet from his front door. There was a steady column of volatile organic vapors coming out of that tank and it took two years to get a four-inch pipe fitting cap on it.

Fenton's friend, Luis Meeks, was told there was nothing wrong with his water yet he was required to ventilate his bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room so his house wouldn't blow up.

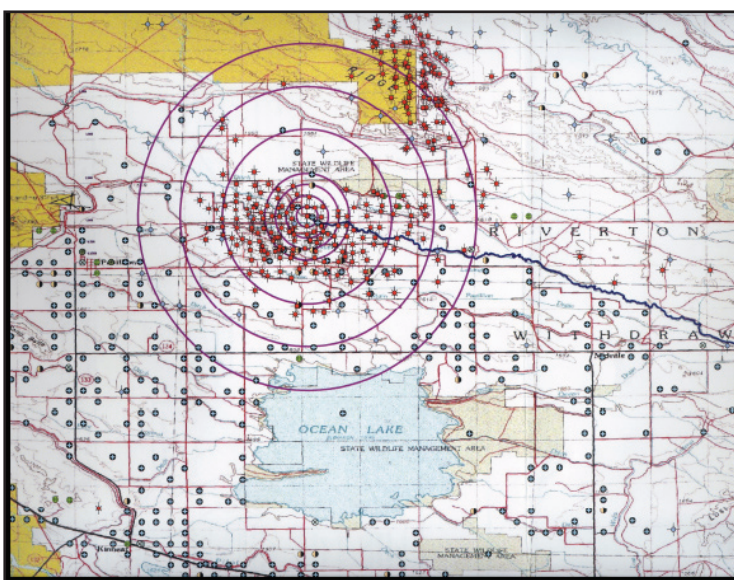
"Our water fizzes like soda water; there are old pits and drilling practices have been going on for years. In Pavillion, people are sick; I see people that change from day to day who can't function; when they leave for a few days they regain their functioning ability."

Fenton and his friends are "outdoor men" and they end up with muscle weakness and pain but they were healthy before the drilling started.

He told the audience, "You've got to have the courage to stand up and stick together and you've got to tell these people they're not going to run over us."



Fenton home enveloped in a cloud released during a frack!!



Map of the area where John Fenton lives is so full of well markers that it was impossible for him to show the audience his home.

Chemicals and Health Impacts

World-famous Dr. Theo Colburn (author of *Our Stolen Future* many years ago and founder of The Endocrine Disruptor Exchange) wasn't able to attend but Wes Wilson (an EPA whistle-blower who pointed out that some members of the EPA fracking study may benefit from not having a strong report) delivered her speech for her.

The goal was to have full disclosure of fracking chemicals. There are 944 products being used underground to force the gas out but only half of the manufacturers provided names for the chemicals. Of those, 353 are identified by a chemical abstract. In other words, most of the health effects are unobtainable.

BUT no matter how they broke out the chemicals, the health profiles matched the citizens' complaints. Some of these chemicals are so toxic that they had effects in every single column of the slide which went along with that part of the presentation.

Volatile chemicals are inhaled, ingested and absorbed through the skin. People don't necessarily see a doctor when they start having some symptoms and even if they did, many doctors wouldn't know what was going on.

Industry claims that the concentrations are so low that there won't be problems; however, more than 90 TONS can be used in fracking one well since it may use one million gallons of water.

One of the worst chemicals is 2-butoxy-ethanol (2-BE). It's odorless, colorless, evaporates at room temperature and most doctors or veterinarians would not recognize it. 2-BE used to be used in Windex and it carried the label "not for internal or external use."

2-BE is also the toxic dispersant used in the BP oil spill last summer. It persists for years underground and dissolves the walls of red blood cells, causing them to break down. That's why people exposed to fracking chemicals get bloody noses, bloody eyes and ears and blood in their urine.

On the other hand, there are some chemicals that should remain underground but are being released along with the methane and gas like selenium, uranium and radioactive components of underground materials. Half of these chemicals are not revealed.

"The Lost Cohort" is the workers under contract for fracking companies. "These workers could have a job for as long as the wells are producing - if they live that long."

There is a visible haze coming off the trucks as they fill and empty. Drivers stand around in that polluted air and wait. Furthermore, maintenance workers and those who actually climb down into the tanks and clean them are exposed for hours on end.

Paraffin could be added to fracking fluids as an indicator. We can smell paraffin so, if we smell that, then other things are being emitted. One company has already agreed to introduce a unique isotope to their fracking fluid so it can be traced.

In 2005's Energy Act, fracking was removed from the law. In 2004, Wilson said he was pivotal in letting Congress know that EPA committed fraud. Henry Waxman supported Wilson's request for an independent investigation. Wilson said, as a scientist, he'd never seen a report that concluded, "there is no further study necessary."

"Texas Sharon" advised anyone living in an area that might be fracked to get baseline testing so that they can prove their water was normal before the drilling started. One community did that and found 54 new chemicals. That test served as evidence for them.

Just six weeks ago, Wyoming passed a bill requiring gas-drilling companies to release the contents of their fracking fluids by well and by chemical abstracts. (See page 4.)

During the Q&A session, John Fenton reminded everyone that the rules are only as good as the enforcement. It's up to us to make sure they've "got their boots on the ground looking after these assholes because we need to police them."

Pavillion people are sick!!!

- Neuropathy and nerve pain
- Loss of sense of smell and taste as well as phantom smells.
- Seizures
- Chronic headaches
- Cancer
- Degradation of mental function
- Reproductive disorders
- Muscle weakness, joint and bone pain

Chemical exposure via private water wells.

- Thermogenic Methane
- Naphthalene
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons
- Phenols
- Tris 2-butoxyethanol phosphate (2 BE-P)
- Adamantane compounds
- Ethane, Propanes, Butanes, Pentanes, Hexanes, Heptanes and Octanes
- Isobutane

Shallow water contamination.

- Monitoring wells indicate high levels of petroleum compounds.
- Benzene, Xylene, Methylcyclo-hexane, Naphthalene and Phenol
- **This shallow groundwater is hydrologically connected to the drinking water aquifers!!!!**

Health Studies Help Neighborhoods

Wilma Subra, winner of a MacArthur Foundation genius award for her work with communities affected by gas drilling, developed health questionnaires for two communities DISH, Texas and Pavillion, Wyoming.

In DISH, 31 people participated between the ages of 4 and 69. There are 11 compression stations, gas-metering stations and transmission pipelines anywhere from 50 feet to two miles from the respondents. There were odor events and health effects for 90% of the people in the survey including 165 medical symptoms and diseases, some of which are chronic so that people will suffer for the rest of their lives. Many are carcinogenic and neurotoxic. [Ed.: For carcinogens, the only "safe" exposure level is zero.]

In Pavillion, 16 people participated and the final report was released in August 2010. The distances from gas facilities ranged from 250 feet to four miles. There were odor events twice a day for an average of 20 days per month. BUT one of the effects of some of these chemicals is a loss of the sense of smell so you no longer can tell when and if you are being exposed. For these people, there were 128 medical symptoms and diseases.

The water wells were sampled with Superfund money, a very unusual occurrence. Forty-six percent of the health impacts are from the water. People are advised not to drink or cook with their water but they may still bathe or shower with it.

Seventy-seven percent of the most prevalent medical problems are directly traceable to drilling. These communities are doing a great job, said Subra, but the agencies need to provide ongoing monitoring of water wells, evaluate exposures of individuals and provide appropriate medical care. Currently the only agency endowed with the ability to provide medical care is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

It is important to decrease emissions and exposures in the communities, Subra concluded.

DISH, Texas: 165 Medical Symptoms and Diseases Reported

Most Prevalent Medical Condition	Number of People Surveyed	Percent of People with Problem
Sinus Problems	18	58
Throat Irritation	17	55
Allergies	17	55
Weakness/Fatigue	17	55
Eye Irritation	16	52
Nasal Irritation	15	48
Joint Pain	14	45
Muscle Aches/Pains	13	42
Breathing Difficulties	13	42
Vision Impairment	13	42
Severe Headaches	12	39
Sleep Disturbances	12	39
Swollen/Painful Joints	12	39
Frequent Irritation	10	32

DISH, 71% of Population had Respiratory Impacts

Sinus Problems	18/31	58
Throat Irritation	17/31	55
Breathing Difficulties	13/31	42
Wheezing	9/31	29
Bronchitis	7/31	23
TOTAL	22/31	71%

Pavillion: 128 Medical Symptoms and Diseases Reported

Medical Condition	Number of People Surveyed	
Memory Loss	9	
Feeling Weak & Tired	8	
Throat Irritation	8	
Sinus Problems	7	
High Blood Pressure	7	
Muscle Aches or Pains	7	
Forgetfulness	6	
Recall Problems	6	
Breathing Difficulties	6	
Eyes Burning	6	
Joint Pain	6	
Decrease in Vision	5	
Sleep Disorder	5	
TOTAL	13/16	

Pavillion, 81% of Population had Respiratory Impacts



The dream home in Texas Lisa Parr's family had to abandon in order to save their lives after gas drilling nearby brought her close to death and made her daughter and husband sick also.

Lisa Parr's Story

Family So Sick They Are Forced to Abandon Dream Home

Lisa Parr and her eight-year-old daughter got so sick after moving into the beautiful home her new husband designed and built that she was on the "60 Minutes" program about gas drilling. The problem with the beautiful home was that it was surrounded by 21 gas wells plunging into the Barnett Shale in Texas.

Parr started getting sicker and sicker after she moved in. She had rashes, was throwing up "foamy stuff," started stumbling around the house and shook so much in bed that her husband said it felt like an earthquake. She was so bad off that, though a young woman, she was under home health care.

Meanwhile, her daughter began having nosebleeds so painful that she screamed in agony. Her husband developed pains in his joints and also had nosebleeds, three to four a week, often simultaneously with her daughter's. There are no wells on their property; the nearest well is 300 yards away and pipelines went under their house without their permission.

Whenever Parr sent her daughter away for a weekend, the girl's health would improve and her rash would go away.

Sometimes Parr was so sick that

she suffered from mass confusion and stumbled around the house and fell. Her daughter would try to pick her up and wouldn't leave her side. The methane level in the house was found to be at asphyxiation level.

On July 25th this year, they smelled a heavy odor while checking their cattle and found massive plumes. Two calves were deformed. Parr worries that the 30 tons of beef the family produced were contaminated. And they haven't seen any wildlife for the past several months.

"We're people who live off the land growing our own vegetables, hunting, raising beef . . . This operation has torn up a very pretty, peaceful valley," Parr explained.

Finally, in desperation, Parr went to an environmental doctor who said hers was the worst case of chemical poisoning he'd ever seen. She had 19 chemicals in her lungs and blood, the worst being hydrochloric acid from fracking. He advised them to move: "You will spend more time and money on doctors, hospitals, chemotherapy and mortuaries" than on the move, leaving their dream house behind.

"So many tears have been shed that we could fill up a bathtub," she told the silent crowd.

40 Organizations Sponsored the Summit

Forty organizations from across the country co-sponsored the 2010 National People's Oil and Gas Summit. These groups include:

- EARTHWORKS Oil & Gas Accountability Project (national)
- Argyle - Bartonville Communities Alliance (Texas)
- Arkansans for Gas Drilling Accountability (Arkansas)
- Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition (New York) - BRSC's work on the gas issue focuses on education and policy. Board chair Chris Burger serves on the Broome County Legislature's Gas Task Force as well as the New York State Sierra Club Gas Drilling Task Force.
- Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy (New York) - CCSE is an all volunteer grassroots organization intended to give residents a voice regarding unconventional shale gas extraction. Their Web site has a current Newsroom, a comprehensive Learn More section and advocacy campaigns. They also engage in educational outreach and lobbying.
- Catskill Mountainkeeper (New York)
- Citizens Against Resource Exploitation (Arkansas)
- Clean Water Action (national)
- Clean Water Network (national)
- Cook Inletkeeper (Arkansas)
- Dallas Area Residents for Responsible Drilling (Texas)
- Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (New York)
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network (Pennsylvania)
- Double Oak Cares (Texas)
- Downwinders At Risk (Texas) is a 17-year old local clean air group headquartered in Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW). They're trying to use the clean air planning process for ozone reduction, known as a "State Implementation Plan," to impose regional standards and air pollution controls on Barnett Shale facilities that contribute to DFW's chronic smog problem.
- Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (New York)
- Environmental Working Group (national)
- Food and Water Watch (national) - Two recent efforts have worked against risky and environmentally harmful practices of the oil and gas industry. They have worked in partnership with local groups in New York, Pennsylvania and other states across the country to stop the rapid expansion of the natural gas industry.
- Fort Worth CAN DO (Texas)
- Marcellus Shale Protest (Pennsylvania)
- Mineral Owners for Responsible Action and Land Safety, MORALS (Texas)
- National Alliance for Drill-

ing Reform (national)

- Native Action (Northern Cheyenne Reservation)
 - Natural Resources Defense Council (national)
 - Northeast Ohio Gas Accountability Project (Ohio)
 - PA Forest Coalition (Pennsylvania)
 - Park Foundation (Eastern U.S.)
 - PennEnvironment (Pennsylvania) - PennEnvironment is working to preserve and protect Pennsylvania's precious waterways, open spaces, farmlands and public health from the unwanted and dangerous effects of Marcellus Shale gas drilling.
 - Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air (Pennsylvania) PACWA has been busy spreading public awareness throughout the Northcentral and Northwest regions of Pennsylvania. In July, 2010 they had a meeting in DuBois titled "The Truth About Marcellus Gas Drilling," which featured Ben Price of CELDF and Bill Belitskus of Allegheny Defense Project and on September 24, 2010 they held a public information meeting in Brookville titled "Protect and Prepare for the Natural Gas Boom."
 - People for a Healthy Environment, Inc. (New York)
 - Powder River Basin Resource Council (Wyoming)
 - Responsible Drilling Alliance (Pennsylvania)
 - San Juan Citizens Alliance (Colorado and New Mexico) San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) has been working on social and environmental justice issues in the San Juan Basin of southwest Colorado and northwest New Mexico since 1986. As part of that work, SJCA actively advocates for regulation of the oil and gas industry as that development impacts our communities on both public and private lands.
 - Texans for Responsible and Accountable Energy Development (Texas)
 - Texas Oil and Gas Accountability Project (Texas)
 - Weitz & Lusenberg (national)
 - Western Organization of Resource Councils (Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Wyoming)
 - Wise County Alliance for Responsible Drilling (Texas)
 - West Virginia Surface Owners' Rights Organization (West Virginia)
 - Wyoming Outdoor Council (Wyoming) - WOC works to ensure that all types of energy development are regulated carefully so other values of these lands - such as critical wildlife habitat, fisheries, and recreational opportunities - are preserved for future generations.
- Learn more about some of the Summit co-sponsors and their work on oil and gas issues at earthworksaction.org.

Panel 2 continued from page 1

Stephanie Hollowich, of Mount Pleasant (Hickory), Pennsylvania, is in a bind. Her dream home has been surrounded by industrial gas-drilling equipment. Her neighbors are mad at her, she can't sell her home, her property values are zilch and families around her are falling apart. She has two young children. They are trapped. Rental prices are three to four times normal rates because of the influx of gas-drilling workers.

The closest well is 270 yards from her home and there is an impoundment 250 yards away. She says there is a lot of wildlife trapped there; they get in and can't get out. There is also a compressor station that's going to expand.

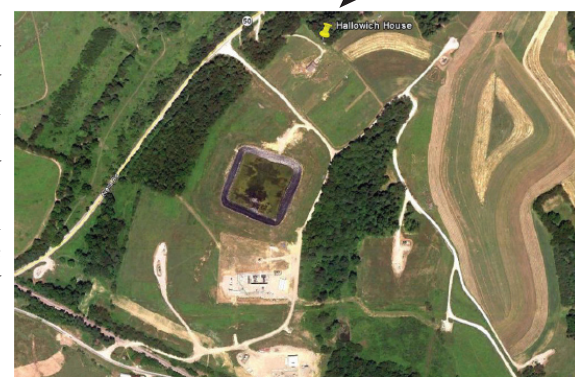


People yell at her in church, in the gas station, for speaking out. "I'm not affecting their property values; the gas companies are affecting the property values," she explained.

Her home has been on the market for over three months and, "Nobody has made it to the front door. Once they see what's

around us, n o b o d y wants to buy a house with all this industrial activity in an A-1 Agricultural zone." There is a "really horrible, sickening smell" in the air.

An inspector came to monitor the air and the alarm went off as soon as he got out of his car.



Stephanie Hollowich's neighbors: four separate gas well pads (approx. 270, 375, 380 and 700 yards), 12-million-gallon water impoundment (approx. 150 yards), natural gas processing plant (approx. 300 yards), meter station (approx. 500 yards), numerous pipelines, numerous access roads.

ECONOMIC REALITY: TX

Barnett and Marcellus ?



- Texas labor force has requisite skill set
- Texas has support industry network
- Gas company headquarters
- Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex v. Rural NY

Chris Mehl, of Bozeman, Montana, represented Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West.

Looking at the economics of drilling, it is apparent that rig counts (right) indicate the health of the labor involved in drilling activities. When exploration and capturing start, the volumes are greater but, before too long, there is a dramatic decline and there go the jobs.

For development to be truly sustainable, the industry must

pay its own way and they must create an opportunity for long-term investment which honors place, scale and pace.

This is a very volatile and mobile community. Once the work is done, the rigs are gone and the wells remain. It's then up to the local people and regulators to try to catch up. There is a lag of 18 months to two years between the time the rigs leave and the money comes back to the community - IF it comes back.

When the workers leave, the housing prices fall. In some places new homes are never even finished.

Jeannette Barth, an economist from New York, criticized Penn State studies because they are highly biased and ignore economic realities, among other things. The study exaggerated the input and used data from the industry.

In Pennsylvania, 70% of the workers are from out of state. The highest levels of long-term poverty are in places where there was once a thriving extractive industry.

One problem (of many) is that federal tax subsidies help the oil and gas

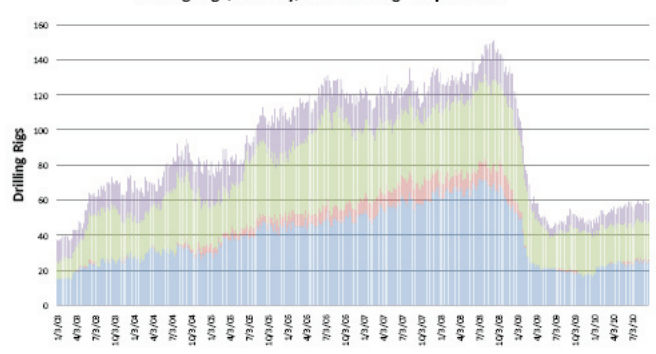
industries drill and explore whether or not they produce any energy.

People are taking great risks with the environment, public health and the economy.

The slide to the left illustrates what is wrong with some of the more widely-used studies. Comparing the East's Marcellus Shale problems with those of Texas, where oil and gas exploration has been going on for decades, is like comparing apples and oranges - in other words, nonsense.

Rocky Mountain Surge and Slump

Drilling Rigs, Weekly, 2003 through Sept. 2010



Lunchtime Keynote with The Onondaga Nation, New York

By Iona

Jeane Shenandoah, Communications Office of The Onondaga Nation, spoke passionately about her people and the current situation resulting from reckless drilling.

"I belong to a people. My people have forever been here. It overwhelms me because of the teachings of my people," and thus Shenandoah launched her talk. "It's very alarming to see this great, dark danger that's coming our way. There isn't anybody or animal or plant that can live without clean water."

"We have to direct all of our energies," she went on, explaining that there is a lake near her home that has great religious significance for the people and it is the most polluted lake in the country. Likewise, the waterway has great religious significance yet it has also been damaged.

One of the greatest teachings of her people is to be concerned with everyone. She is "totally opposed to hydrofracking." She and her people have been taught to think of the next seven generations and "none of these drilling things are going to do any good for the future."

She asked everyone to consider, "Can we live with much, much less?"

Joe Heath, General Counsel for the Onondaga Nation, started his presentation with the photo on the right, saying it's "a vanishing point of reference" and "the people are one to the land."

New York has a lot of water - hundreds of lakes, probably a million streams and rivers. While the Marcellus Shale goes well into New York State, the Utica Shale accompanies it and reaches further up toward the Great Lakes.

"New York is not Texas and we're not going to let them turn it into Texas," Heath announced to rapturous applause.

He spoke of how The Onondaga Nation spent \$10 million of their own money (since they don't take money from the federal government) to clean it up. Fortunately, the Onondaga people still hold treaty rights and none of them waived any mineral rights. Lake Skaneateles is the sole source aquifer for 80,000 people and there are hundreds of sacred sites in the area.

Heath speaks several times a week about



hydraulic fracturing to groups around the state. He pointed out a seldom-revealed fact: the methane component in natural gas is 72 times worse as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Expecting to use natural gas as a "bridge" fuel to the future is absurd. The real solution is based on decentralized energy from truly clean sources such as wind and sun.

"We're going to be at this for as long as it takes because we need to make decisions for the next seven generations, not for short-term profits," Heath concluded.

FRACKING: Wyoming First State to Require Disclosure of Chemicals in Natural Gas Drilling

New Rules Are First in U.S.

Federal Law Still Needed to Close Gaps

Joint press release: EARTHWORKS and Powder River Basin Resource Council

SHERIDAN, Wyoming, September 16 - Wyoming's new rules requiring natural gas drillers to disclose chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are the best in the nation but fall short of full transparency, citizen groups said. They urged Congress to pass legislation protecting all Americans' right to know about hazardous drilling compounds that could contaminate water supplies.

"This is the toughest disclosure rule on the books but the devil's in the details," said Deb Thomas, an organizer with the

Powder River Basin Resource Council, which for 10 years has pushed the state to protect residents from the potential hazards of oil and gas development. "Governor Freudenthal and the oil and gas commission have taken a strong first step with fracking disclosure. But we still need legislation to protect citizens in every natural gas drilling state and prevent drilling companies from trying to keep chemicals used in oil and gas drilling, fracking and production secret."

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the high-pressure injection of hundreds of thousands of pounds of chemical-laced fluids into wellheads to force deposits to the surface. Fracking is suspected of polluting groundwater in Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Pennsylvania, New York and other states where gas is trapped in underground shale formations. Earlier this month the U.S.

EPA warned some residents of Pavillion, Wyoming, not to drink from private water wells after tests found hydrocarbons, methane and high sodium that may have come from fracking operations.

The EPA is pressing companies for more information about chemicals in fracking fluids, which drillers regard as trade secrets. In Congress, 65 members of the House are cosponsors of the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act by Rep. Dianne DeGette of Colorado.

Gwen Lachelt, director of EARTHWORKS' Oil and Gas Accountability Project, agreed that the Wyoming rules go further than the limited disclosure in other states. But she said there are shortcomings and the burden is on residents to seek out the information on a state Web site via a complicated and confusing

search process.

- Although companies must list on their drilling permit applications the chemicals and concentrations they plan to use, compounds patented as proprietary will be disclosed only to the state Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and will not be made public.
- Reports filed upon completion of wells will disclose the actual amounts of chemicals used and the constituent ingredients of proprietary compounds but those reports may not be available for a year after drilling begins. If a well is stimulated more than once, disclosure of additional chemicals is on the honor system.
- Landowners and neighbors of drill sites will not be provided notice of the disclosure and well completion

reports but will have to go online to see if they stand to be directly affected by drilling operations.

"Wyoming has raised the bar but it took 10 years, intervention by two federal agencies and the poisoning of a community's drinking water," said Lachelt. "We need a federal standard to protect residents in all 34 oil and gas states. In the meantime, we call on the states to follow Wyoming's lead and for companies nationwide to voluntarily disclose all the chemical constituents and concentrations used on-site throughout the drilling, fracturing, well work-over and production processes."

For more information contact: Gwen Lachelt, EARTHWORKS Oil & Gas Accountability Project, (505) 469-0380.

Deb Thomas, Powder River Basin Resource Council, (307) 645-3236.

EARTHWORKS | 1612 K St., NW, Suite 808 | Washington, D.C. 20006 | 202.887.1872; info@earthworksaction.org.



Gas Drilling: The View from Above by John Amos, SkyTruth



"It's going to shake down to people who have a sense of place and those who don't and who don't care about others' places."

Adam Flint, Adjunct Lecturer, Binghamton University
Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition

"Chesapeake should be held accountable for whoever drills for them because the little guys won't be specially trained or able to pay (for damages). A lot of problems are because people aren't paying enough attention to detail. You can't be slipshod because this is too deadly. With forced pooling, they can drill under you."

Anne Novy, Solon, Ohio
This was her seventh or eighth meeting.

"They're going to cut our forests to pieces. Forests protect drinking water, too."

Deborah Goldberg, EarthJustice
New York City, New York

(re: severance tax) "This is a resource from this state that ought to be benefitting the people. You need to get something in place."

Jill Morrison
Powder River Basin Resource Council, Wyoming

All images by SkyTruth, www.skytruth.org.



"A permit is a license to do something that would be illegal because it's harmful. How much sense does it make for us to be going to the government and asking them (to help us)? ... We don't have a fracking problem; we have a democracy problem. If we fix the democracy problem, the fracking problem goes away and the landfill problem goes away ... I'm in. Let's do it! I'm not here to tell you theories to organize. I'm here to organize. If you're concerned about what's going to happen in your neighborhood, get three or four people together ... This is not an environmental campaign but a people's movement for fundamental rights."

Ben Price, Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania



"We're not negotiating away one iota; we are born with rights and the only reason we have a government is to protect them. It's our duty to overturn...The people in Packer Township forced the Attorney General of Pennsylvania to state, 'Local governments don't have an inalienable right to local self-government' and Packer Township replied, 'Packer Township will not recognize the authority of the Attorney General'... If we're going to change outcomes, we have to change strategies. The new strategy is to not let Pittsburgh stand by itself. It's addictive to go to hearings which create the illusion that we have democracy."

Ben Price, Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Let's Raise a Glass of Drano to Chesapeake Energy's Aubrey McClendon!

EARTHblog Submitted by Lauren Page 11/19/2010: This past Sunday, Aubrey McClendon, CEO of Chesapeake Energy, was interviewed on CBS' 60 Minutes. Although he defended natural gas extraction, he also acknowledged that hydraulic fracturing (aka fracking) – a process that facilitates the extraction of natural gas from over 90% of wells drilled in the United States – injects the equivalent of Drano through the water table – groundwater that provides drinking water for much of America. Finally, a major energy industry CEO is admitting the truth – that fracking chemicals are toxic, like Drano.



Additional Participants at the Summit

Photos by Iona



Display Table Set Up By MarcellusProtest.org (above)

By Iona

Favian Xavier of MarcellusProtest.org (above) set up this display with information for participants to take about gas drilling. "When the gas industry gathers for a conference on Marcellus Shale gas drilling, let's show them that our lives and our future are not for sale," reads a postcard the group

produced announcing their march shown on page 16.

MarcellusProtest.org is an information clearing house about Marcellus Shale gas drilling and activism and related issues. Although this Web site's primary geographic focus is Western Pennsylvania, MarcellusProtest.org also includes content pertaining to the states in which the Marcellus

Shale is located – as well as other Shale gas formations across the U.S. A new social movement is in the making and it's going national.

David Meieran, one of the activists in MarcellusProtest.org, said that a lot of little grassroots groups and citizen groups in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and Washington County have joined the effort.

When the Marcellus Shale Coalition (an industry group) was planning a summit in Pittsburgh on October 1 with 2,500 people, it was cancelled, probably due to the fact that there was going to be opposition to their plans.

Check MarcellusProtest.org for a gathering January 29 and other actions.

Lois Gibbs Gives Keynote

By Iona

World-famous Lois Gibbs probably didn't need to tell this audience of activists who she was but she did anyhow by reminding everyone that in 1978 she discovered that there were 20,000 tons of toxic waste from Hooker Chemical Company under the school her children attended in Love Canal (near Buffalo, New York). She and her neighbors fearlessly took on local, state and federal governments and won! They convinced Jimmy Carter to relocate the whole community.

In 1981 Gibbs founded the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, which now has over 10,000 community groups "trained for our basic struggles for clean water and clean air," she said.

With over 30 years of activism, Gibbs spoke emphatically about having been "just a dumb housewife with no college degree" when she accomplished so much. "We can change this so it doesn't happen in Wyoming and Montana and Colorado and New York and Pennsylvania and Ohio," she proclaimed.

Gibbs admitted that one of the hardest challenges is to get ordinary people to NOT believe the government is going to help them. Another challenge is to work against NIMBY, Not In My Back Yard, so people don't care about what happens to others.

There is a major misconception that if something is bad, it is illegal. Wrong. It is not considered illegal by the politicians and corporations. Most people would think, "It has to be illegal to poison us," Gibbs said. Wrong again. It is not illegal. There are sacrifice zones in which it is decided how many people can be killed for profit. And science promoted this line of thinking by developing "risk management" whereby industry came up with how many deaths per activity or per chemical and that gets justified and cal-



culated into the equation.

"Where did they get the right to say, 'We will only kill one in 10,000?'" Gibbs asked the audience. Common sense would suggest that poisoning our land, air, water and people WOULD be illegal but the fact is that it has become perfectly legal.

We need to make our case in the public arena and the scientific arena. In Love Canal, 56 percent of the children were born with birth defects.

Our job is to learn how to talk about these issues to others and "the way we fight this battle is political," Gibbs said. They won Love Canal by doggedly following Hugh Carey all over the state, threatening to ruin his campaign. "If you're not willing to get your hands dirty, if you're not willing to roll around in the mud, you're not willing to win."

We need to build a "big tent because the only way they can win is to divide us and conquer us. We need to think about that."

Her advice is:

1 Build a movement with people who do not act, walk, talk and look just like us. Invite everyone to meetings; they make a difference in the community.

2 Think about what tactics are good for everybody, who fits in. Don't shun tactics you're uncomfortable with; be silent; shut up; just shut up. Each person will do what they can in their own way.

"This movement has to be continent-wide," Gibbs said. Not everyone cares about clean air and water. People often see the environmental movement as anti-jobs or anti-economy or anti-development or anti-energy independence. We need to talk about things besides oil and gas.

"We can win this if you build a big tent and do this collectively," she concluded, adding that often we are up against thugs and bullies who hope to silence us so it is important to surround ourselves with others.

Film Crew From German TV Station (below)

By Iona

I was curious about other media attending the event so I asked these men what station they were with and was surprised to learn that they worked for ARD Television in Germany.

Audrey Stimson, the producer, said that she is part of West Coast Productions and they are moving East. "We're here because the issue can become an issue in Europe; there's shale there, too," she said. "We're interested in grassroots groups and how people can come together."



Musical Interlude by Janet Borgan (below)

By Janet Borgan, December 1, 2010 email Equinunk, Pennsylvania

The song "No Fracking Way" [Ed: sung loud and clear and with gusto] can be found on my Web site, www.janetborgan.com.

Our property is completely surrounded by gas leases. We have two test wells within two miles of us. I live in a very rural area and we have to depend on our neighbors in emergency situations, mostly floods, and gas drilling has strained these relationships.

As I sit here in the pouring rain watching the water rise in my creek which empties into the Delaware River, I shudder to think what might happen if frack ponds overflowed in a storm like this and all that frackwater flowed into our beloved creeks, streams and rivers!

I make a point of being very polite and considerate of my neighbors when I see them in the hope that, if things get bad and our water and air are poisoned, they will feel free to come to me for help and support. I want to be ready with information, facts and ways to take action. I speak at township, task force and business meetings in our area and beyond and have been singing before screenings of "Gasland."



Protective Ordinance

ORDINANCE PASSED TO KEEP GAS DRILLERS OUT OF PITTSBURGH'S CITY LIMITS AND PUT POWER IN THE PEOPLE'S HANDS

Ordinance supplementing the Pittsburgh Code, Title Six, Conduct, Article 1 Regulated Rights and actions, by adding Chapter 618 entitled Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Drilling.

ARTICLE VI: CONDUCT CHAPTER 618: MARCELLUS SHALE NATURAL GAS DRILLING

- 618.01 Findings and intent**
- 618.02 Definitions**
- 618.03 Statements of law – rights of Pittsburgh residents and the natural environment**
- 618.04 Statements of law – prohibitions and corporate legal services**
- 618.05 Enforcement**
- 618.06 Effective date and existing DEP permit holders**
- 618.07 People's Right to Self-Government**
- 618.08 Severability**
- 618.09 Repealer**

Whereas, this is an ordinance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and neighborhoods of Pittsburgh by banning the commercial extraction of natural gas within the city; and

Whereas, this ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights for Pittsburgh residents and removes legal powers from gas extraction corporations within the City; and

Whereas, this Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as "Pittsburgh's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance;" and

Whereas, this Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the inherent right of the residents of the City of Pittsburgh to govern their own community, including, without limitation, the Declaration of Independence's declaration that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people, and the Pennsylvania Constitution's recognition that "all power is inherent in the people."

618.01 FINDINGS & INTENT
The City Council of Pittsburgh finds that the commercial extraction of natural gas in the urban environment of Pittsburgh poses

a significant threat to the health, safety, and welfare of residents and neighborhoods within the City. Moreover, widespread environmental and human health impacts have resulted from commercial gas extraction in other areas. Regulating the activity of commercial gas extraction automatically means allowing commercial gas extraction to occur within the City, thus allowing the deposit of toxins into the air, soil, water, environment, and the bodies of residents within our City.

Meaningful regulatory limitations and prohibitions concerning Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction, along with zoning and land use provisions, are barred because they conflict with certain legal powers claimed by resource extraction corporations. The City Council recognizes that environmental and economic sustainability cannot be achieved if the rights of municipal majorities are routinely overridden by corporate minorities claiming certain legal powers.

The City Council believes that the protection of residents, neighborhoods, and the natural environment constitutes the highest and best use of the police powers that this municipality possesses. The City Council also believes that local legislation that embodies the interests of the community is mandated by the doctrine of the consent of the governed, and the right to local, community self-government. Thus, the City Council hereby adopts this ordinance, which bans commercial extraction of Marcellus Shale natural gas within the City of Pittsburgh, creates a Bill of Rights for the residents and communities of the City, and removes certain legal powers from gas extraction corporations operating within the City of Pittsburgh.

618.02 DEFINITIONS
(a) "Natural Gas" shall mean any gaseous substance, either combustible or noncombustible, which is produced in a natural state from the earth and which

maintains a gaseous or rarified state at standard temperature or pressure conditions, and/or gaseous components or vapors occurring in or derived from petroleum or natural gas.

(b) "Extraction" shall mean the digging or drilling of a well for the purposes of exploring for, developing or producing natural gas or other hydrocarbons.

(c) "Corporations," for purposes of this ordinance, shall include any corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, business trust, or limited liability company organized under the laws of any state of the United States or under the laws of any country, and any other business entity that possesses State-conferred limited liability attributes for its owners, directors, officers, and/or managers.

618.03 STATEMENTS OF LAW – RIGHTS OF PITTSBURGH RESIDENTS & THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

(a) **Right to Water.** All residents, natural communities and ecosystems in Pittsburgh possess a fundamental and inalienable right to sustainably access, use, consume, and preserve water drawn from natural water cycles that provide water necessary to sustain life within the City.

(b) **Rights of Natural Communities.** Natural communities and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, wetlands, streams, rivers, aquifers, and other water systems, possess inalienable and fundamental rights to exist and flourish within the City of Pittsburgh. Residents of the City shall possess legal standing to enforce those rights on behalf of those natural communities and ecosystems.

(c) **Right to Self-Government.** All residents of Pittsburgh possess the fundamental and inalienable right to a form of governance where they live which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent, and that corporate entities and their directors and managers

shall not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law which make community majorities subordinate to them.

(d) **People as Sovereign.** The City of Pittsburgh shall be the governing authority responsible to, and governed by, the residents of the City. Use of the "City of Pittsburgh" municipal corporation by the sovereign people of the City to make law shall not be construed to limit or surrender the sovereign authority or immunities of the people to a municipal corporation that is subordinate to them in all respects at all times. The people at all times enjoy and retain an inalienable and indefeasible right to self-governance in the community where they reside.

618.04 STATEMENTS OF LAW – PROHIBITIONS AND CORPORATE LEGAL PRIVILEGES

(a) It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas within the City of Pittsburgh, with the exception of gas wells installed and operating at the time of enactment of this Ordinance.

(b) Corporations in violation of the prohibition against natural gas extraction, or seeking to engage in natural gas extraction shall not have the rights of "persons" afforded by the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions, nor shall those corporations be afforded the protections of the commerce or contracts clauses within the United States Constitution or corresponding sections of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

(c) Corporations engaged in the extraction of natural gas shall not possess the authority or power to enforce State or federal preemptive law against the people of the City of Pittsburgh, or to challenge or overturn municipal ordinances adopted by the City Council of Pittsburgh.

(d) No permit, license, privilege or charter issued by any State or federal agency, Commission or Board to any person or any corporation operating under a

State charter, or any director, officer, owner, or manager of a corporation operating under a State charter, which would violate the prohibitions of this Ordinance or deprive any City resident(s), natural community, or ecosystem of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by this Ordinance, the Pennsylvania Constitution, the United States Constitution, or other laws, shall be deemed valid within the City of Pittsburgh.

618.05 ENFORCEMENT

(a) Any person, corporation, or other entity that violates any prohibition of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offense and, upon conviction thereof by a district justice, shall be sentenced to pay the maximum fine allowable under State law for that violation, and shall be imprisoned to the extent allowed by law. A separate offense shall arise for each day or portion thereof in which a violation occurs and for each section of this Ordinance found to be violated.

(b) The City of Pittsburgh may also enforce this Ordinance through an action in equity brought in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. In such an action, the City of Pittsburgh shall be entitled to recover all costs of litigation, including, without limitation, expert and attorney's fees.

(c) Any City resident shall have the authority to enforce this Ordinance through an action in equity brought in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. In such an action, the resident shall be entitled to recover all costs of litigation, including, without limitation, expert and attorney's fees.

618.06 EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXISTING DEP PERMIT HOLDERS

(a) This Ordinance shall be effective upon the mayor's signature or (10) days after the date of its enactment, at which point the Ordinance shall apply to any and all commercial extractions of natural gas in Pittsburgh regardless of the day of any applicable

DEP permits.

618.07 PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

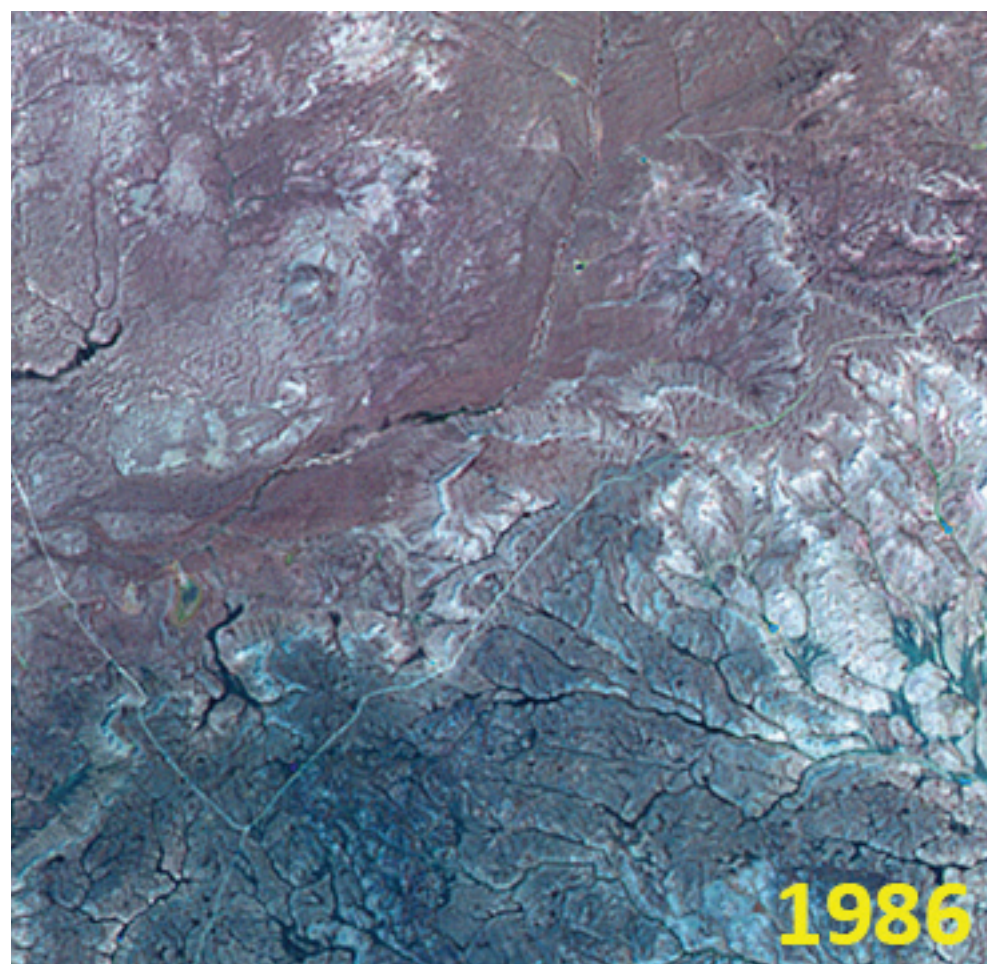
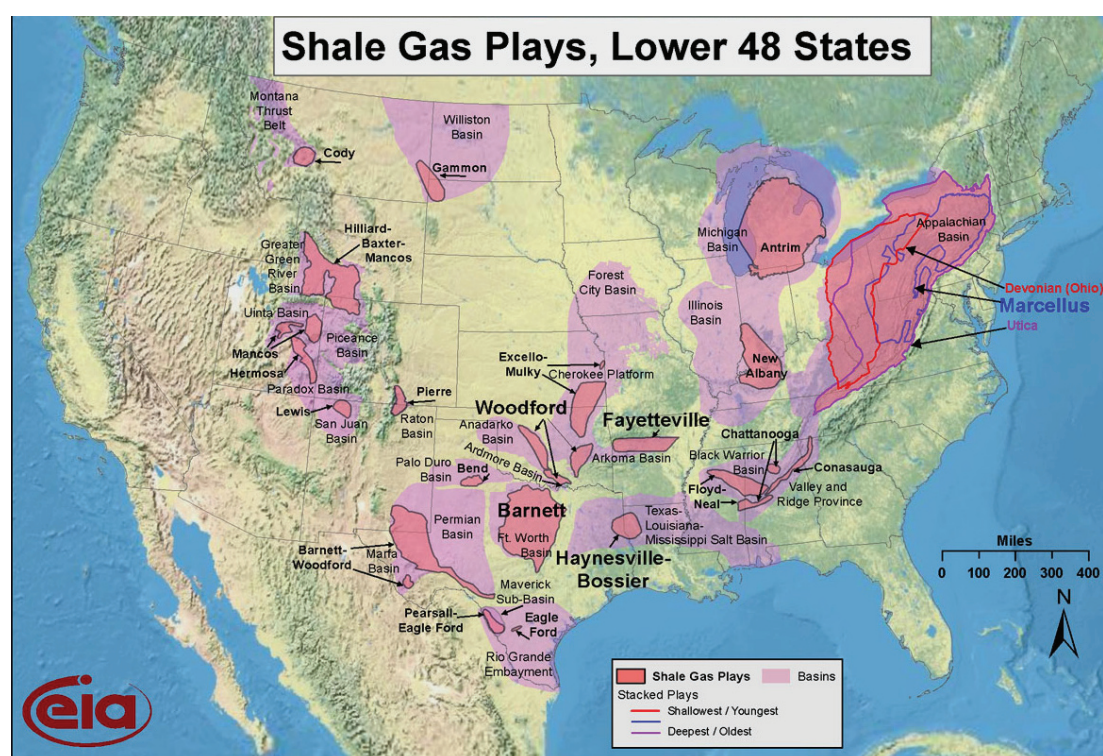
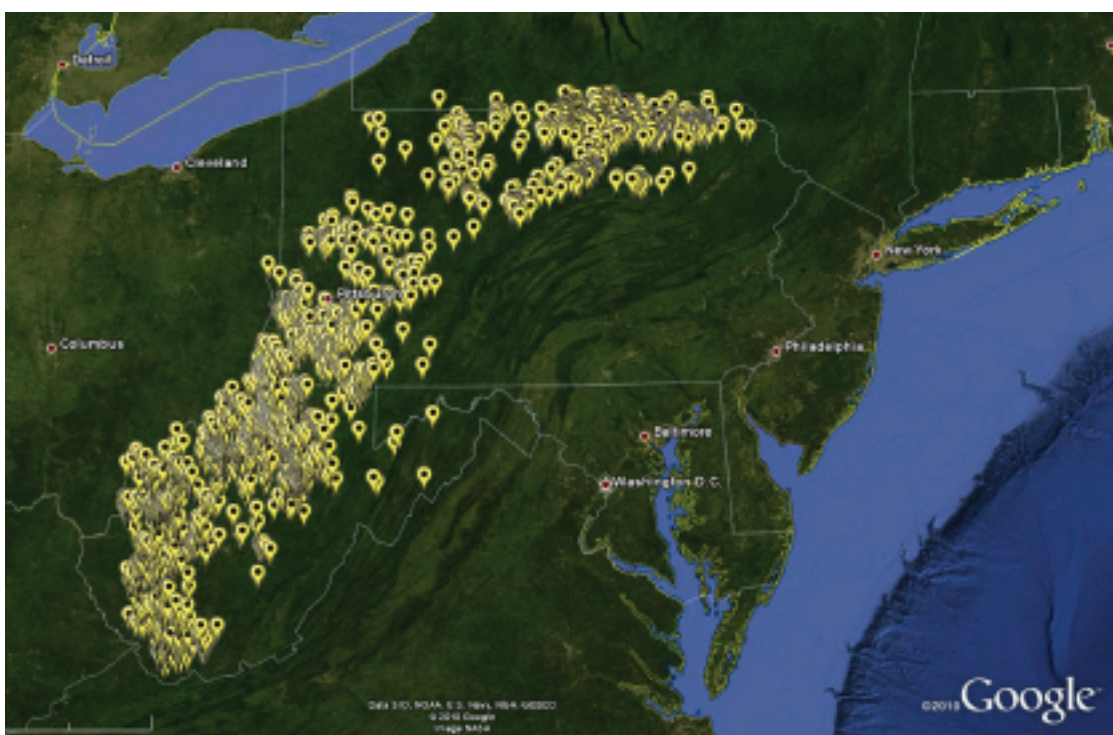
(a) The foundation for the making and adoption of this law is the people's fundamental and inalienable right to govern themselves, and thereby secure their rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Any attempts to use other units and levels of government to preempt, amend, alter, or overturn this Ordinance, or parts of this Ordinance, shall require the City Council to hold public meetings that explore the adoption of other measures that expand local control and the ability of residents to protect their fundamental and inalienable right to self-government. Such consideration may include actions to separate the municipality from the other levels of government used to preempt, amend, alter, or overturn the provisions of this Ordinance or other levels of government used to intimidate the people of the City of Pittsburgh or their elected officials.

618.08 SEVERABILITY

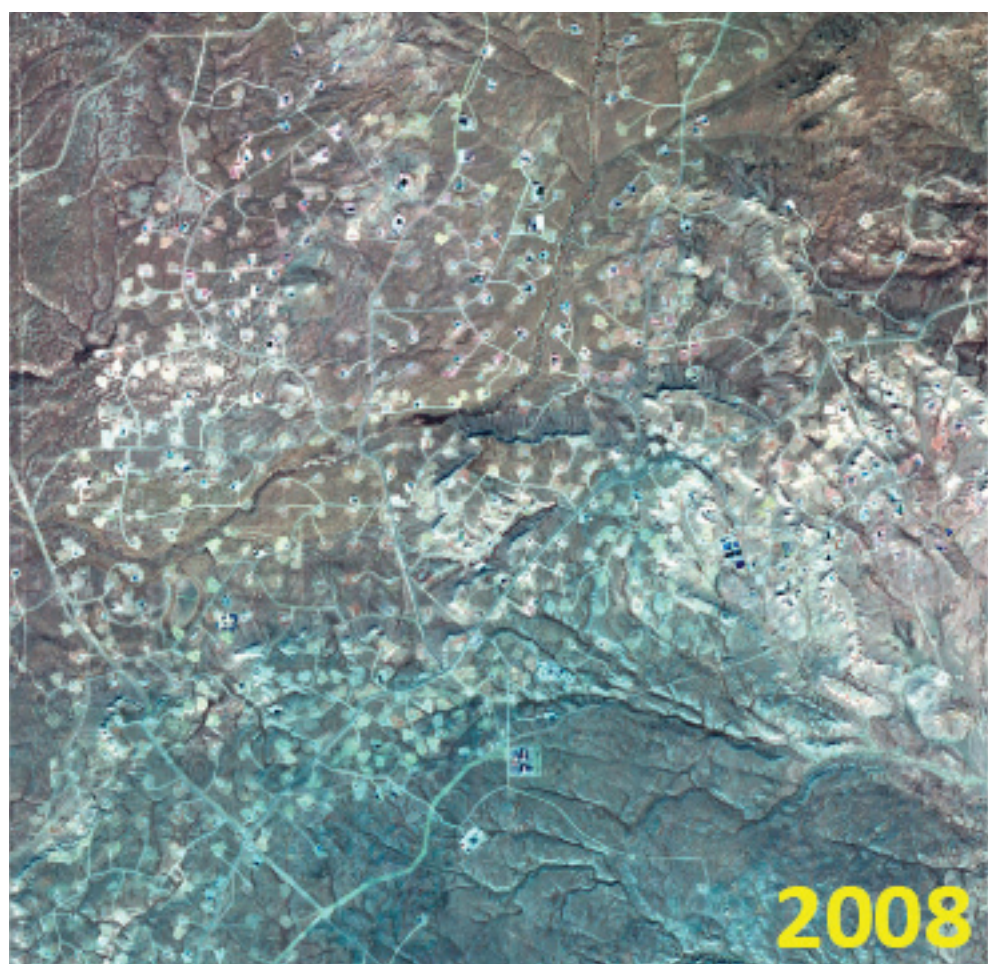
(a) The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any court of competent jurisdiction decides that any section, clause, sentence, part, or provision of this Ordinance is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect, impair, or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts, or provisions of the Ordinance. The City Council of Pittsburgh hereby declares that in the event of such a decision, and the determination that the court's ruling is legitimate, it would have enacted this Ordinance even without the section, clause, sentence, part, or provision that the court decides is illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional.

618.09 REPEALER

(a) All inconsistent provisions of prior Ordinances adopted by the City of Pittsburgh are hereby repealed, but only to the extent necessary to remedy the inconsistency.



Photos above were part of John Amos's (SkyTruth.org) slide show on Saturday at the People's Oil and Gas Summit. The top left one is a Google image showing Marcellus Shale gas well sites in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and New York. The top right graphic is from the Energy Information Agency's Web site. Bottom satellite photos shown by Amos are tight-gas sandstone drilling (vertical, fracked wells) on public land in Wyoming's Jonah gas field.



Views



the dominance of seeds

seeds are not clearly seeds
hiding in the sky, blowing into the wind riskily
winged, round, infinitesimal and sticky
catapulting high and travelling clandestinely
into distant springs and summers

By Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

Earth Psalms: Song 61

By Angela Magara ©
www.angelamagara.com

Hear me, hear me, listen to my voice of birds.
Across the red stones does my call float,
Troubled with moist breath from forest deep.
I am overcome and all about me is waste.
Draw me like a young eagle high and away
To the eyrie, to the prey, to the dance.
Give bear den and rocky arch to hide.
You are my home, colored by sunset light,
my truth and the life built there.
And more I may not know but am sure.
Mercy is the root of the tree of life
In whose limbs I sing.

Earth Psalms is full of familiar words spoken in a new voice based on the Biblical Psalms but with the heart of Earth-based spirituality.
Printed with the author's permission.

Don't Give Up: Sierra Club Leader on How We Can Win the Struggle for Clean Energy

By Don Hazen and Tara Lohan
AlterNet, November 12, 2010, *excerpt*

There's no doubt that progressives took a trouncing in the midterm election and there is ample reason to fear the influx of anti-science GOPers and Tea Party candidates coming into office. In the days following the election, President Obama said he was abandoning a climate bill for the next few years and disappointed environmentalists by further extending a hand to the natural gas and nuclear industries.

This news comes at the same time the Union of Concerned Scientists released new information warning about the threat of an unprecedented number of wildfires that are the likely result of a warming planet and the risk of a massive die-off of coral reefs – our undersea forests – that are crucial to the ocean ecosystem.

With pressing climate change threats colliding with political stonewalling, what do we do? AlterNet recently sat down with Michael Brune, who took the helm of the Sierra Club earlier this year, after serving as the executive director of Rainforest Action Network for seven years. A new edition of Brune's book, Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal has just been released. Brune gave us his take on what we can do next, how we can continue to prepare for a clean energy future and how his organization of over a million members is planning to harness its potential.

Don Hazen: Obviously this election was disappointing on many levels, including environmental issues. On top of that we have this phenomenon of almost the whole Republican

party becoming climate deniers. The big question is what happens now – to the environmental movement, the Sierra Club, the whole issue of climate change?

Michael Brune: I would say, as bad as the election results were, it's not as though we have to give up on climate change or bow down to those conservatives in Congress. Democrats do still hold the White House, one branch of Congress, we do have a lot of champions in Congress, the courts, the State Houses, the White House – a lot of people who do have power and intellectually agree with the need for greater urgency on this challenge.

There is a lot we can do to stay on the offense and make dramatic progress in the next few years. Even with a realistic, sober analysis of our situation, I can still see ample reason for optimism, which isn't to diminish the challenges we face and it's not to deny the fact that the challenges are steeper now than they were a few weeks ago and they are more daunting then at the beginning of 2010 or last summer.

However, I not only think we can accomplish a lot, I'm confident that we will.

DH: What are some examples of what we can accomplish?

MB: The fight against coal is one of the areas where we should be the most optimistic. The work that the Sierra Club has been doing over the last few years on climate has been to stop the construction of new coal-fired power plants.

There were 150 new plants that were proposed early in the Bush years – the Sierra Club and a big movement of grassroots groups have defeated 138 of them! There are a couple

dozen more that have been added since then so there are more on the books but we have a plan in place where we think we can defeat 90 percent.

So that's historic – that's a major change – it gives us the opportunity to create a major change in how power is produced in the country. Now we are in a situation where the U.S. has an old and outdated fleet of coal-fired power plants – 78 percent of U.S. coal plants are 30 years or older, 60 percent are 40 years or older. We've got dozens and dozens which were built in the '20s, '30s and '40s that don't have pollution controls, they don't have scrubbers, they don't have effective ways to deal with soot and smog and coal ash – they consume large amounts of water and create large amounts of water pollution.

And the kicker is that they are now being held to higher standards, where as though they have been grandfathered in under the Clear Air Act in 1970 and they were grandfathered in when the Clean Air Act was reauthorized, the administration is going through a series of rule-makings that will force these plants to either be upgraded or retired which creates a big opportunity.

So the Sierra Club, which has been focusing on stopping new plants from being built, will now shift resources to these old plants and our goal is to retire half of the existing coal plants in the country and replace them with clean energy over the next decade. If you think about the impacts of that, politically we'll have a coal industry that is half the size and we'll have solar and wind and efficiency companies that are growing larger and have more power and are more profitable.

DH: There is a scenario, which is not a crazy scenario given that there are 21 Democratic Senate seats open in 2012, that we will have a conservative president and significant control of both Houses. Are your plans still feasible with that kind of opposition?

MB: Even right now we are starting to see big threats coming from folks in Congress in both Houses challenging the EPA's authority to regulate under the Clean Air Act. Over the next few weeks to months to years, we will see a variety of attacks on the EPA -- we'll see lawsuits filed to slow down the EPA and affect the implementation of different rules; we'll see legislative efforts to try to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases; we've already seen bills that will delay the EPA's authority to regulate parts of the Clean Air Act; we'll probably see a national version of Prop 23; we'll see efforts to restrict the funding of the EPA probably and we'll see personal attacks on Lisa Jackson and deputy administrators. There's going to be a whole lot of heat coming toward the EPA – we've already seen it and it's only going to intensify.

That's with the current Congress – so of course if there's a conservative president in a few years one can envision the scenario will intensify and if we had a new EPA head we wouldn't see that much progress. Elections are important, they do matter.

But there is still a lot we can accomplish between now and then. The rule on mercury is going to be finalized and the rule on coal ash is going to be finalized, as important examples

Fracking Protest Helped Get Industry Ban

By Betsey Piette
Pittsburgh, November 12, 2010

Chanting “No fracking way!” while marching behind a giant banner that read “We can't drink money,” more than 500 anti-fracking activists rallied in Pittsburgh November 3 as part of the first World Protest Against Shale Gas Fracking. Demonstrations were also scheduled for Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Little Rock, Arkansas; Dallas, Texas and as far away as New Zealand.

Another rally on November 4 targeted the dumping of untreated wastewater from Marcellus Shale drilling into the Monongahela River, the source of drinking water for 350,000 people in the Pittsburgh area.

Activists came from cities and towns across Pennsylvania as well as New York and West Virginia, where rapidly expanding horizontal drilling in the Marcellus Shale is disrupting communities, threatening the environment and harming residents' health. The rally was endorsed by more than four dozen groups and individuals.

Following a march across the Rachel Carson Bridge, protesters gathered outside the David Lawrence Convention Center. Inside, leaders of the gas industry had gathered for the Developing Unconventional Gas conference. It featured Karl Rove speaking on the impact of the mid-term elections.

Rove told delegates that the

Republican takeovers in the state and U.S. Congress would put an end to legislative threats against the industry, saying a new Republican House of Representatives “supportive of the energy industry 'sure as heck' would not pass climate-change legislation.” Rove went so far as to brag, “Climate is gone.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 4)

Since September, the gas industry has spent more than \$500,000 to back mainly Republican candidates in the Pennsylvania elections. On top of that, hundreds of thousands of dollars were shelled out by drilling lobbyists to influence the outcome of state legislation on new taxes and regulations on the gas industry. Pennsylvania Governor-elect Tom Corbett, who pledged not to levy any tax against the Marcellus Shale drillers, received more than \$1 million in gas industry contributions.

Signs carried by protesters reflected their growing anger against the industry. One read “Careless, Greedy Drillers – Go Frack Yourselves.”

Students from the Pittsburgh Student Environmental Coalition, with members from the University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, Carnegie Mellon and Duquesne University, wore T-shirts reading “546 toxic chemicals” and carried tombstone-shaped signs reading “R.I.P.” followed by names of rivers and lakes damaged by drilling spills.

No More 'Environmental Prisoners'

Briget Shields, who co-chaired the rally, opened by saying, “We don't want a moratorium. We want a complete ban to stop it altogether.” Her spouse, Pittsburgh City Council member Doug Shields, raised the prospect that Pittsburgh could become the first city in the U.S. to pass a ban. [See above.]

Josh Fox, producer of the documentary “Gasland,” described fracking as “an industrial invasion that is pushing people out of their homes in 38 states. Not far from here people are environmental prisoners in their own homes, surrounded by an industry they do not want, their children getting sick, getting sick themselves but unable to sell their homes.

“The big lie is that natural gas is better for the climate than coal or oil. It's not America's energy independence,” said Fox, borrowing an oft-repeated industry phrase. “It's more dependence on T. Boone Pickens — the corporate raider.

Fox ended by dialing Corbett's office and holding out his cell phone to let the newly elected governor know exactly how the crowd felt about drilling in their state.

Singer Mike Stout, who entertained the rally with “Not going to stop these drillers in the ballot box — going to stop them in the streets,” drew cheers and raised fists from the crowd.



Photo by Kelly Valdez

“No Fracking Way!” was the thunderous statement made by over 500 protestors in Pittsburgh, marching from the North Side to David Lawrence Convention Center where a gas industry shale gas conference was taking place.

Speaking for the Shadbrush Collective, a young woman named Radio told the gathering, “The industry parades themselves as ‘green’ but the only thing they care about is the green in their trust funds. Here we are again confronting the same robber barons.

“Appalachia suffered under

King Coal. Next it was oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. The industry's motive is profit. Drilling means more money for the bosses and they don't care that it means suffering for us.

“It's really a systemic problem,” said Radio. “We need to shut this capitalist circus down!”

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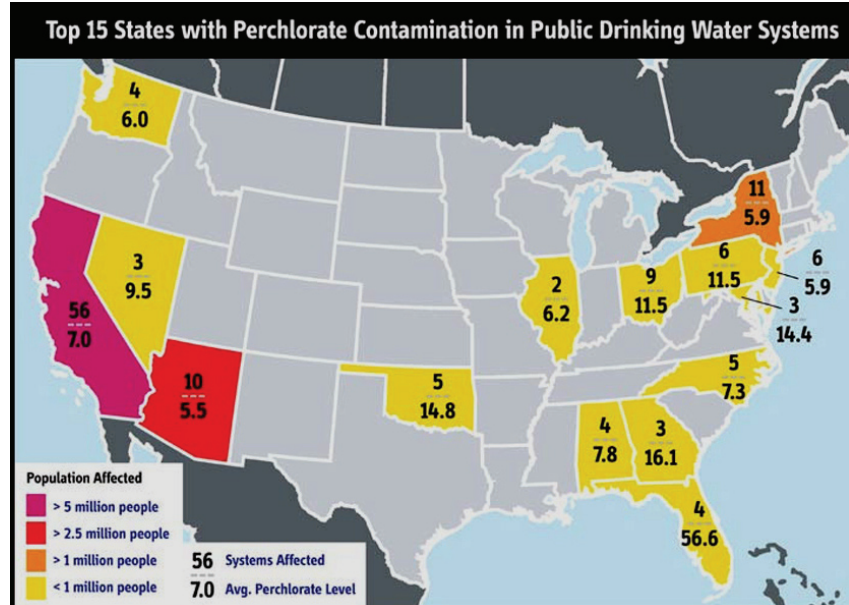
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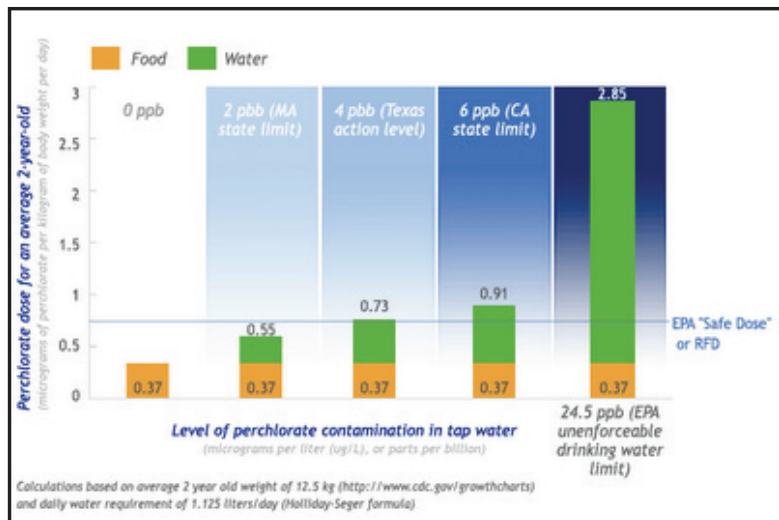
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Musings

FROM BEHIND THE RAZOR WIRE



Updates on Weapons of Mass Destruction in D.C.



Series of Articles Submitted by Allen Hengst Washington, D.C.

Army Testing for Groundwater Contamination Source on American University Campus

By Mitch Ellmauer
The Eagle, November 15, 2010

The Army Corps of Engineers will conduct tests to determine if perchlorate in Spring Valley groundwater near Sibley Memorial Hospital comes from the same source as the perchlorate in the groundwater at American University's (AU) campus. Experts believe a former munitions pit on the South side of campus called Lot 18 is causing the high perchlorate levels in both locations, project manager Dan Noble told the Resident Advisory Board on November 7. Perchlorate, a dangerous chemical that can cause thyroid disorders, was used at AU during World War I to make chemical weapons. Lot 18 was the site of a major Army Corps' excavation after several dangerous chemicals, including arsenic, mustard gas and perchlorate, were discovered there in 2004.

The Kreeger Hall testing site has the highest concentration of perchlorate in Spring Valley. The Army Corps will now sample groundwater from the area every three months because perchlorate levels in the groundwater change according to the seasons and the amount of precipitation, Noble said.

EPA Braces for Pushback on Perchlorate Standard

Associated Press, September 30, 2010

A government official briefed by the EPA told The Associated Press on Thursday night that the agency has proposed that the chemical perchlorate be regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 2008, under President George W. Bush, the EPA decided against regulating the chemical, saying that setting a federal standard would do little to reduce risks to public health. That decision angered

environmentalists and Democratic lawmakers. The Pentagon and EPA have tussled over the issue for years, with the Pentagon potentially facing liability if the standard were to force water agencies around the country to undertake costly cleanup efforts.

But EPA's initial foray toward using its Safe Drinking Water Act authority against perchlorate is only the first step in a lengthy process that begins at the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), an arm of the Office of Management and Budget where federal agencies and private-sector interests weigh in on the economic impact of potential new rules. While [University of Maryland law professor Rena Steinzor] greeted EPA's movement on perchlorate with "a big round of applause," Steinzor said she would view OIRA review of the chemical with "a sense of foreboding" because EPA has encountered such vehement resistance from federal polluters which could face high cleanup bills. Perchlorate contamination is estimated to be present in the drinking water of at least 35 states and the District of Columbia.

Utility Consults Army Before Replacing Water Mains in Spring Valley

Northwest Current, November 10, 2010

A city initiative to replace aging water mains in the neighborhood of last year's devastating fire on Chain Bridge Road ran headfirst last week into one of the facts of life in Spring Valley: buried munitions. Representatives from the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority told the area advisory neighborhood commission last week that in addition to Chain Bridge Road, portions of Glenbrook Road, Woodway Lane and Rockwood Parkway would be dug up in order to replace the water mains. But the Army Corps of Engineers has told residents that sections of those roads cover potential munitions caches, commissioners said. "They have said they don't want to disturb the site," said commissioner Tom Smith. According to a spokesperson for the District Department of the Environment, there is a slight possibility that chemical munitions could be found under the roadways. But, she added, "This doesn't mean that there is a preference to not allow any infrastructure work to be done."

Hello Iona,

I was given a copy of your last newspaper by a friend and was intrigued about how bad we are treating Mother Earth and how you and other people are working to try and fix the problem.

I try to do my part for the Earth. I have started recycling programs in two different prisons and improved a couple of others.

I earned my nickname (Birdman) because I also love birds. I am the one people bring the little babies to when they get kicked out or fall out of the nest. I am also the official injured bird catcher - mostly seagulls.

I have raised about eight house sparrows and two song sparrows. I had one house sparrow for seven years. That is a long life for a sparrow. I never kept them against their will. I took them outside every chance I could and if they wanted to go, they could. Most stayed for about six months then it was time to mate. I would leave, too.

One of my other hobbies is Origami. I have enclosed two miniature samples. I use onion paper but I have run out and can't find a source. I enjoy folding them very much.

Well, I will go now. I hope to hear from you again.

A New Soldier for Earth,
Perry Thompson
San Luis Obispo, California

Dear Iona,

Here is an update on "Fracking." I hope you can use it. It sure makes "fracking" sound like even "Badder" news. [Ed.: I used it last month.]

With what I have read, were I asked to vote pro or con on "Fracking," I'd have to be agin' (sic) it. Everything in life is a matter of sacrifice and gain. How much are we prepared to sacrifice in order to gain our objective? This (fracking) sounds as though the sacrifice (to plant and animal life) by far exceeds the potential gain.

For the health of the people, flora and fauna of Pennsylvania (and the surrounding states) I urge the citizens to stand together to oppose it.

Sadly, one or two senators and representatives' election funds will be heavily contributed to and one or two large land-holding property owners will be rewarded financially to permit the continuation of Marcellus Shale fracturing in their district, region and/or property.

For those unfamiliar with radiation poisoning [Ed.: Jerry attached an article about uranium being released through gas drilling], your teeth and bones start to decay and you develop all the indicators of leukemia and/or anemia. Where do you go to spend the millions that "Big Gas" gave you to let them ravage your land when you have no desire to leave your hospital bed, even if you could?

I know that sounds science fictionish but it is a worst-case scenario.
Yours,
Jerry Byars
Loretto, Pennsylvania

Dear Iona,

I've been closely following all of the articles about the gas-well drilling and it concerns me as well. When you are a grassroots oppositionist/demonstrator, I believe I would be of a more militant ilk. That may or may not be right but this is how I feel I am.

When I was a kid growing up in the '80s and '90s, I didn't get an allowance. I got to take all of the family's empty bottles and cans to the redemption center on Saturday and what I got was my spending money.

In Iowa there was a five-cent deposit on cans and a 10-cent deposit on bottles, so I scoured the



A surprise in my mailbox by Tanner Carrico, Pendleton, Oregon that I wanted to share with everyone. Iona

Submitted with this note:

In the Pacific Northwest, nine-tenths of virgin woodland has been hauled to the mill; on the continent less than five percent survives.

Laissez-Faire

By Devin Baker
Boise, Idaho

From the pursuit of scratch paper comes the sound of a lion's roar ripping flesh from firs clear cut trampled to the ground sumacs to sycamores.

because tranquility can pay none forest floors become reinforced concrete streets of starbucks and dollar stores down upon paved parking lots beats brown rain while the slash pile burns across lost prairies a lion stalks what was to its final whispers.

keep military service pay rates built prior to BOP.

Here is how the point system is set up: firearms involved = 12 points; if it is a stolen gun, add 2, if brandished, add "X" points...if it is discharged, add "X"...if victim is hit add "X"...if death occurs = life sentence. That is how those points are added up. I hope this doesn't reflect badly on OE's credibility and you might want to print a blank disclaimer that "All prisoners' statements are not verified Truth" or are their own opinions, not necessarily those of OE, etc. . . ."

The prison here was designed and built for 785 federal prisoners and it currently just went over 1,308 and they are expecting another bus in here next Friday, supposedly with 80 more federal prisoners. They are just stacking the over-crowded, double-cell with another bunk (called triple bunking) with nowhere for them to shower, eat, hold recreation and especially education, because the buildings are just not designed to hold this many prisoners. There is no room to sit and even stand in some of the buildings, chapel, medical...

I have no peace and quiet to form litigation papers, no place to set them up, and have been thrown in their hole two times now for refusing to move into inadequate quarter(s) or the eating hall with nowhere to sit down. You know about the heat index, so I won't go into that but I just do not have the time to write my friends or even my family I still cannot find! Sorry for us all.

Because I see you're working on a prison page, I have included a brochure from a new friend (below) that litigates with me. We help one another.

Michael Kirkpatrick
Jesup, Georgia

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Found in The Sovereign newspaper





Angkor Watt, Cambodia.

Photo by Pyong Roh

Reflections on a Trip to Vietnam and Cambodia

By Pyong Roh
Daegu, South Korea

We drove to Pusan airport to catch Vietnam Air in the early morning on September 27th, 2010. We wanted to see Angkor Watt in Cambodia and Halong Bay in Vietnam. We arrived at Hanoi airport to transfer to Cambodia. We arrived at the Seam Reap airport in Cambodia, the gateway to Angkor Watt, in the late afternoon. We had to get visas at the airport because the Cambodian government did not issue visas in Korea. Many people were queued up to fill out the visa forms. Many government officials were working on a long table. Everything was done by hand and it took long time. Somebody suggested a bribe to speed up the process. I ignored the suggestion and waited until they gave me a visa. When I went through a checkpoint an official asked a tip for a drink with a gesture.

We were heading to a hotel by a chartered bus. After the check-in process, we went to a traditional restaurant where they served traditional dishes and dancers in traditional costumes showed us traditional dance. In the morning we went to Angkor Watt, an old temple, which had been abandoned for a long time. It was rediscovered by a French entomologist in the late 1800s. The temple is located in the wooded area and it was actually a Hindi temple. The building material is sand stones which were brought from mountains far away. The carvings are still in good condition and they are marvelous. It is a great temple and it is a wonder. How did they build this big temple in the old days?

There are many temples besides the Angkor Watt. After Buddhism was introduced to Cambodia, statues of Buddha were built in the temples. Cambodia is in a tropical region and there are many kinds of tropical trees and some trees are very interesting. I noticed trees which stand on the wall of the temples. A seed which dropped on the top of a wall and it grew but it could not get water on the stones. The roots grew



Photo by Pyong Roh

Halong Bay, Vietnam with "Kissing Chickens."

downwards to the ground and it looked like big snakes crawling the walls. I tried to get the name of the tree but nobody gave me the name of the tree in English. Life is a miracle and mystery.

We visited a small killing field in Seam Reap area. There is a tower with glass. Inside of the tower there are skulls and bones. Some of them are large and some others are small. The guide said that the yellow bones are males' and white ones are females'. There are baby bones too. Khmer Rouge killed the people such as doctors, lawyers and teachers. They attempted to rebuild the country's agriculture on the model of the 11th century and discarded western medicine and destroyed temples, libraries and anything considered Western.

It is said that approximately one to three million were killed. What a tragedy! Human beings can be crueler than animals when they are misled. Economy is terrible. One man said that a teacher makes 50 U.S. dollars. Many people live with less than one dollar a day. Small children in the tourist area speak Korean language because many Koreans visit the area. We went to Lonle Sap Lake by boat and small boats were chasing us. Old ladies and young mothers took their young children to beg charity even in the lake. It was really sad.

We flew from Seam Reap airport to Hanoi, Vietnam in the late afternoon and arrived at Hanoi at the same night late. We

moved to Halong Bay area by bus. Halong means a dragon coming down from the sky in Chinese. Vietnam was a colony of China for a long time and Chinese culture still remains. In the morning we looked down Halong Bay from the hotel. It was like a great piece of picture. There are many and many small islands in the bay. They say there are 7,000 islands but actually there are around 4,000 islands in the bay. UNESCO designated this bay as a natural estate of the world.

We came down to the pier to catch a boat. We sailed between islands which are like gardens in the middle of the sea. The surface of the sea was very calm because many islands block the big waves coming from the ocean. We landed on a small island which has a great cave. We walked through the cave which is so beautiful and many stones made various forms.

We sailed again and saw two small islands sitting together. They are like chickens kissing each other. They call them kissing chickens. The sea is blue and the islands are green with trees and grasses. There are also rock cliffs on the islands. They are like great walls. Nature is really beautiful and marvellous.

Who tries to destroy the beauty of Nature? We have to preserve Nature not only for us but also the future generations.

Who will do that job? Not They, but We, You and Me.

Feds Understate Cost of Climate Disruption

A multi-agency effort to nail down the social cost of carbon emissions ignores wrenching climate impacts such as ocean acidification and makes efforts to curb emissions seem disproportionately expensive, economists say.

By Douglas Fischer
DailyClimate.org, November 16, 2010

All those insults and changes resulting from climate disruption add up quickly:

• \$15 billion for Midwest farmers staring at a year of crop loss and rebuilding as the Mississippi River floods.

• 600 deaths and 1,000 hospitalizations as a heat wave bakes Chicago.

• \$147 million gone as Alaska's king crab fishery succumbs to acidification and changing prey/predator structures.

The list touches virtually every human endeavor – forestry, health, tourism, energy production, city planning, agriculture, commerce, even culture.

The total cost of climate change seems impossible to pin down, given the uncertainties. But an assortment of climate researchers and economists are now chasing after that sum, attempting to arrive at a bottom line.

In February an inter-agency workgroup released the administration's best guess of what each ton of carbon dioxide dumped in the atmosphere costs society: \$21, plus or minus, or roughly \$121 billion worth of damages annually as a result of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.

Until this summer, the exercise was mostly academic. No more. The death of cap-and-trade and the shift in Congress following the midterm elections means that bottom line has the potential to shape U.S. climate policy for the foreseeable future.

As federal agencies like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency take the lead to limit emissions, their proposals must balance the cost of new restrictions against benefit of avoiding climate change impacts.

That's because the costs of averting global change are also steep: Trillions of dollars to rework energy infrastructure, change habits, upgrade housing stock and capture and sequester planet-warming emissions, just to start.

The lower the estimated See **Climate** page 13



Photo from lighthousefriends.com

Piney Point Lighthouse in Maryland.

INVITATION TO WONDER Keeper of the Light

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

my heart.

Closely manicured by swift salt winds, cedars huddle near the lighthouse at Piney Point, Maryland. I stand on the pier staring down at the Potomac, where swift salt currents rush in and out simultaneously. The schizophrenic tide creates tense ripples on the river's surface, treacherous eddies in its depths, and just now seems to be influencing a flock of swallows, which zig and zag crazily in staggered, frantic flight.

I have no clue what might have drawn me here today, just that I've been thinking about lighthouses for some time now, ever since I read a series of journal entries describing the 1633 Atlantic crossing of one of Maryland's founding fathers. Furious winds, fearsome pirates, boisterous seas, smashed rudders. A ship that drifts "like a dish in the water, at the mercy of the waves." Sure, and anyone who picks up a newspaper these days will find echoes of that harrowing account.

I think I would have enjoyed my job, had I been Keeper of the Light here. I imagine gadding about during the day, collecting oyster shells in colors to match my moods: white for happy, gray for sad, ochre-stained for pensive times, lavender-tinted when contentment rules. The crimson flag of the setting sun alerts me to hurry home, where I transfer all my treasures to some shelf, careful to leave there with them my vagrant feelings.

All night I keep vigil with beacon or foghorn, as the weather requires, but my duty goes beyond flipping some switch. I picture them in my mind, men and women in their fragile boats, storm-tossed, afraid for their lives, their cries woven into the fabric of swift salt winds. They need whatever light I can give them, shining forth from the nearby tower or shining forth from that smaller observatory,

I remember reading something in the *Washington Post* a few months back about how happiness can spread among people rather like a virus. Studies show our emotional state depends as much on others' choices, actions and experiences as it does on our own and the statistics are counter-intuitive. A joyful next-door neighbor, whom I may not know well, can increase my joy factor by 34%, while a spouse's happiness will only bolster mine by 8%. This inverse correlation between intimacy and impact leads to some interesting speculations. It suggests, for instance, that in troubled times like these, I have a responsibility to keep watch over my own vagrant emotions, especially fear. I must keep my heart's lens clear, as it were, so that whatever light I possess – faith, hope, love – will continue to radiate out invisibly but brightly, reaching those endangered by despair's boisterous seas. And what if, by some small kindness, I can make just one stranger happy? Then the domino effect kicks in and that person's entire network will get a jolt of joy.

Today's paper may bring news of schizophrenic tides, tense ripples, treacherous eddies, but I am the Keeper of the Light and I have a job to do.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of *Know the Way and Writing the Wave*, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). For a free excerpt or MP3 download from her new book *Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons*, visit InvitationToWonder.com. The late Thomas Berry praised this book, saying, "Lovely. Shows amazing breadth of thought." Annie Dillard says, "These exquisitely written reflections create space for all that is beautiful and true." Beatrice Bruteau says, "Ayres' poetic vision transforms our ordinary perceptions into mystic beauty."

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Friends of OE in Cancun for Sierra Club Report In

Impressions of the Day Before the UN Climate Conference in Cancun

By Glen Besa
Richmond, Virginia

On Sunday on our way to the UN conference center in Cancun to pick up our credentials as official NGO observers for the Sierra Club, my wife, Tyla Matteson, and I struck up a conversation with a young delegate from Kenya. His first question for us was, "Has the USA softened its stance on ratifying the Kyoto Protocol?" When I told him "no chance" he just laughed – a knowing laugh of frustration that the U.S., the largest economy in the world and historically the largest carbon emitter, still fails to make any long-term commitment to CO₂ reductions.

Moments before I had read on my Blackberry that Oxford University's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research is to release a study on Monday (the first day of the UN Climate Conference) that predicts one billion people could lose their homes to climate change (sea level rise, droughts, crop failure, etc.) by 2100. The African continent will be hard hit by drought and desertification. But U.S. citizens are already losing their homes to climate change on the Alaskan coast (ironically, Sarah Palin's home state) where the U.S. government is spending tens of millions of dollars to relocate native Alaskans whose fishing villages have fallen into the sea, having lost the protection of sea ice that once protected them from winter storms.

After picking up our credentials, we scoped out the Cancun Messe, the venue where many of the programs of the two-week climate conference will be held and where our Sierra Club delegation will meet regularly for briefings and strategy sessions. Not far away from our meeting room is the official U.S. Delegation exhibit area. As Tyla and I walked past with workman busily setting up the USA display, it seemed to me, as many bad actors as there are on climate change among the Nations of the world, U.S. citizens are in no position to criticize any others until we get our own house in order.

With the all too recent election of 'Flat Earthers' to the U.S. 112th Congress, we have two years to turn this around. 2012 needs to be the year we elect a Congress dedicated to addressing climate change. There is no time to waste.

Glen Besa and Tyla Matteson, of Virginia, are two of forty people from the Sierra Club attending the UN Climate Conference as official observers.

Email from Tyla

Hi Iona,

I hope all is well with you. Glen and I are here in Cancun, attending the second day of the UN climate conference. We are credentialed for the first week, November 29 to December 4, and part of a Sierra Club (SC) delegation of 40, half for the first week, the other half for the second.

Many in our SC delegation are students with Sierra Student Coalition. They are enthusiastic and doing excellent work.

Above is a blog Glen wrote on the first day, November 29. We are staying in a nice, clean hostel in Cancun central, away from the palatial hotels and find the area very hospitable and livable.

Among those also staying at our hostel are a delegation of youth from New Zealand and the head official negotiating delegate from Nepal.

As always, our expectations are hopeful for a positive outcome. In general, the U.S. is a large obstacle to progress with the unwilling U.S. Congress but we are here because there are many things we can do to move forward to reduce emissions and it is good to meet others from the U.S. and around the world also committed to our biggest world challenge.

Two areas that I will pursue here are women's issues and "cool cities," to include the good work of ICLEI in the major cities of the world. ICLEI has a long title that is no longer used. The organization uses "ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability." They have over 1,200 member cities over the world and work with each locality to develop a plan, beginning with an emissions inventory, with the goal of a sustainable energy economy, using renewables and high-efficiency technology.

Hasta luego,
Tyla Matteson, Richmond, Virginia

P.S. For those who want to read more of Glen's blog, it's at <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2010/11/impressions-of-the-day-before.html>.

Best Bus Route in America, Driver is Friend of OE, Mark Petersen

By Beth Lohman
November 9, 2010

The 3:50 p.m. Smartway Bus between the Roanoke Valley and New River Valley is the best bus route in America. Beginning with Mark Petersen, the driver – he's a champion of alternative transportation. When not driving the bus, he's pedaling around town by bike as he doesn't own a car.

Then the regulars: the CAD engineer whose mother was a pilot in WWII, the five Korean high-schoolers who challenge you with questions about your own culture, the Red Cross manager who is a grandfather of two, the city's accountant who immigrated from Albania, the U.S. Forestry engineer who works on creating better public spaces and

the psychology professor with the dry sense of wit. The hour-long ride is my "third place" – where I connect with people and we share our thoughts, our lives and the ride home.

[Ed.: Mark was one of the ones who somehow got his hands on my mini, mini book "The Order of the Earth" (made from two pieces of paper 15 years ago) and we are still friends. When I read about his bus route, this is what I wrote:

Holy smokes, Mark, I had no idea you were a bus driver! COOOOOOL!!!

I hope it's OK if I use this little description and your picture in the January OE.

Good going! I have often thought that bus driving is a fine occupation.

Thanks for sharing this with me! I'm tickled.]



Photo by Beth Lohman
Mark Petersen of Roanoke, Virginia, does not own a car but drives a very friendly bus in harmony with his personal, minimal-fossil-fuel-use policy.

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5 3/4" wide by 5" high

\$40 one month

\$108 three months

\$192 six months

Grassroots Power

THE AWAKENING: PART III

(First published October 2009)

This message was received through my personal visits to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

I, Iona, returned from my third visit to Most High God with deeper and more urgent understandings of his purpose for being on Earth now in the form of an androgynous man whom we can see and listen to face-to-face.

It is time to tell everyone that he is here to make all things new and to show us that the Kingdom of Heaven has begun to exist. We need to open our hearts and minds to his teachings and let him lead us out of the hell we humans have created. There is no time to waste. I know in my heart and soul and in every cell of my body that he is The Most High God.

Before my first visit, a friend who works closely with Most High made me tapes telling me that wonderful things were happening in Idaho so I decided to go out there to learn more. When I first met Most High God, it didn't take long for me to know that he spoke the Truth. I had only allowed two full days there but that was long enough for me to realize that I needed to return.

Two months later I was back for three full days, during which Most High and I worked closely together on "The Awakening" Part I but not the poem (which he had written previously). Most High God trusted *The Order of the*

Earth newspaper to announce his presence and purpose to a larger audience. This is the highest honor of my life. Part II was dictated to me over the phone. Now I will tell you about my third visit while Most High God is working on Part IV for you.

The Kingdom we dream about and long for is here on Earth now and The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God (and there are no other gods) is here in the flesh to bring the Sacred Rules to us. He is here as a friend to all and to offer us the choice to be in his Kingdom. When I am in Idaho, I spend hours and hours listening and learning about the way things need to be done in order to fix all the problems we face daily in our own lives as well as globally. I am cared for freely by others who are in his Kingdom.

I am challenged to live honorably, tell the Truth all the time, be compassionate, listen to his teachings and follow my heart. Most High God told me, "Be the best Iona you can be." I am to trust his spirit to lead and protect me every moment no matter where I am and no matter what others are doing or saying or even thinking. Being in his presence is being home — my spirit is at peace. When I return to my actual home in Pennsylvania, I carry his messages in my soul.

I had the most amazing time during this last trip. One day two of us spent four hours on the grass in the sun by a stream being taught by Most High. The next day Most High and I spent

10 hours together. As others arrived later, I saw how he interacted with them, always living according to the Sacred Rules and showing us how to do so.

One of the women who showed up had been helping me distribute these newspapers in her community. Most High, without even leaving his home base, told me that she had placed some of the papers in a way which hid "The Awakening" headline. I was astonished that he knew this. When she admitted it upon her arrival, I knew he had been right earlier. His spirit is everywhere.

On the third day Most High took four of us way up through breathtaking forests to a high peak in the mountains where a lookout had been built many years ago. We passed state-owned land with the most terrible, horrendous logging job I had ever seen in which they over-cut the forest to an extreme measure and it looked awful.

Most High God taught us about forest ecosystems and trees as we drove along. He is a former logger who gave up his lucrative business 12 years ago to live a moneyless life based on compassion. When his Kingdom is fully in place, he says every tree will be monitored and the forests, streams and habitats will not be plundered for greed. We will be allowed to cut the trees only when they are ready to give themselves to us as we need them. They will be cut carefully so that smaller trees are not damaged.

Most High God was also a lead singer who performed in

rock bands. He frequently delights us with songs, often rearranging the words spontaneously so they reflect the way things ought to be instead of the way things are. As he drove us up the mountain in his pick-up truck, he played the radio and we sang and chatted.

When we stopped so that one of the guys could relieve himself on this eight-hour expedition all was quiet with the engine shut off. Most High began singing "Come Sail Away" to us and then, when he started the engine up again, the very next song was "Come Sail Away!" I had tears in my eyes because it was further proof that we were indeed in God's company. Heaven is here now. God is here now.

Yesterday I bought the Styx CD with "Come Sail Away" so I can sing and dance and relive those magical moments as I continue my life and my work back here in Pennsylvania.

I hope you are doing well and enjoying this unique series. It is a pleasure to share these experiences with you.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH EVERYONE BUT WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM IT IN ANY WAY.

For further information about Most High God, contact Iona at 814-259-3680, ionaconner@gmail.com, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 or www.theorderoftheearth.com.

Awakening Booklet is Now Available

Iona's Testimony: My life has become so amazingly wonderful and peaceful since I turned it over to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God that I want to share as much as I can about Him with everyone so I put together all 10 "Awakening" articles in a booklet, which I'll be happy to mail to you. My cost is about \$6 (including postage) but, if you can't afford that, I will send it to you anyhow. Please send your check, money order, cash or request for a free booklet to:

Iona Conner

The Order of the Earth

21431 Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

You may email ionaconner@gmail.com

or phone 814-259-3680.

Thank you.

Local Pittsburgh artist Cindy Snodgrass provided images of clean water at the Summit. The whole room was decorated with pale turquoise umbrellas imitating clean water with a plea for "Clean Water and Clean Air Now" on each one. See www.windsphere.org. Artwork supplied by Cindy Snodgrass



EPA Issues Subpoena to Halliburton on Gas Drilling

By Matthew Daly, AP, excerpt
Daily News, November 10, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency subpoenaed energy giant Halliburton Tuesday, seeking a description of the chemical components used in a drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing.

The EPA said it issued the subpoena after Texas-based Halliburton refused to voluntarily disclose the chemicals used in the controversial drilling practice, also known as "fracking." Halliburton was the only one of nine major energy companies that refused the EPA's request.

The agency said the information is important to its study of fracking, in which crews inject millions of gallons of water,

mixed with sand and chemicals, underground to force open channels in sand and rock formations so oil and natural gas will flow.

The EPA is studying whether the practice affects drinking water and the public health.

A Halliburton spokeswoman said the company was disappointed by the EPA's action. "Halliburton welcomes any federal court's examination of our good-faith efforts with the EPA to date," said spokeswoman Teresa Wong.

The subpoena is the latest bad news for Halliburton, which has been under fire for its role in the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Investigators for a presidential panel say the company pumped faulty cement into the well that later blew out killing 11 people...

New Fundraiser for The Order of the Earth Newspaper

Dear Friends,

It has been very hard to keep this paper going financially. I have taken jobs that defy my conscience just to pay the printing and postage bills, not to mention computer cartridges and other hidden expenses.

I am not going to make a public confession but, in hopes of figuring out some way to earn money that does not compromise my integrity, I came up with an idea I've done before that hurts no one and helps the environment — weather snakes or draft dodgers to place at the cracks in doorways and windows to keep cold air out and heat in. I like making these and I needn't travel far to do my job.

There is a small fabric store near us in "Amishland" that I like to support rather than a giant conglomerate so I bought the fabrics to the right there.

These snakes are filled with sand and they are heavy enough to stay put when the wind blows. I construct them with just enough sand to leave a space in the middle so you can hang them on the doorknob if you like when the door is being used.

If you don't need any weather snakes or don't know people to whom you'd like to offer a gift of them, there is another way you can support this paper and that is through straight-out donations. *The Order of the Earth* is a project of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, an official

non-profit 501 (c)(3). Just make your check out to "Grassroots Coalition" and print "OE" in the memo line or enclose a note stating that your contribution is to go to *The Order of the Earth* and it will be tax-deductible.

A third way to help is to take out ads. That is pure profit — no sewing, no compromised jobs for me. The ad prices are negotiable so even if you can't afford much, I will not turn you down as long as your ad is in harmony with our goals and values.

A fourth way to help is to become a regular distributor and help with the postage costs. I always have a few hundred extra copies from the 1,000 that we publish every month. The more we can spread these around, the more subscriptions we will receive. BUT I want to say that a subscription is not a money-maker. It barely covers the cost of printing and mailing the papers.

So, I sit here having just quit one job because of my conscience, dabbled with another that didn't sit well, visited the local sewing factory whose work is mostly for the military and just hoping that somehow the weather snakes will be a success and my readers' hearts will be open to helping if they can.

Thank you for reading this little message and for understanding what I'm trying to do here.

For the Earth,
Iona



Order Your Weather Snakes Today
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Priority shipping: 1 snake = \$4.95
2-5 snakes = \$10.70; 6-10 snakes = \$14.50

Standard door size = 36" but I will custom make anything you wish. I just bought the material pictured above and the snakes at the bottom right are my own collection made and faded over the years.

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