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Posted on Sun, Jul. 4, 2010

Marcellus Shale dispute bubbling up in northeast Pennsylvania

By Andrew Maykuth Inquirer Staff Writer

DAMASCUS, Pa. - Tim Coulter's farm in this rocky corner of northeastern Pennsylvania is in financial trouble. He's sold off the livestock. There's no market for the timber. And with only 121 acres left, Coulter can't carve off any more of the land that his family has owned for five generations.

In September, a week before the Wayne County sheriff was scheduled to foreclose on Coulter's farm to collect \$7,000 in taxes, salvation arrived in the form of a check from a natural-gas company that leased Coulter's land for Marcellus Shale exploration.

"Everybody's counting on the gas to come through," said Coulter, 48. "Without it, we would have gone under."

His reprieve may be only fleeting. Though shale-gas development has raced eastward across Pennsylvania in the last two years, it has stopped dead in its tracks in Wayne County before any production wells can be drilled.

What is unfolding here is a mammoth clash between neighbors with starkly contrasting visions about the land. It is a virtual range war, waged at public meetings and on the Internet, expressed mostly in insults but occasionally through small acts of vandalism.

Last month, the Delaware River Basin Commission, a multistate agency based in Trenton, declared a moratorium on drilling any gas wells in the upper Delaware watershed - even nonproducing exploratory wells - until it can approve new drilling regulations.

The reason: These rural highlands drain into the protected waters of the upper Delaware River.

Though the DRBC maintains that it is not opposed to the "appropriate development" of natural gas, many landowners here who have signed gas leases regard the commission's move as a stealth ban, an intrusion by unelected out-of-state officials to deprive them of their property.

"The DRBC is trying to take something away from me," said Bob Rutledge, whose 500-acre farm has been in his family since the 1800s. "This is America. We still own mineral rights."

But local residents who believe that gas drilling poses an imminent health threat applauded the DRBC's action.

"We have property rights, too," said James Barth, who owns 20 acres in Berlin Township, surrounded by neighbors who have leased their land for gas drilling.

At its root, the battle here is kind of a red state/blue state conflict - a cultural chasm dividing newcomers, old-timers, and those with opposing economic interests.

Wayne County is in New York City's ever-expanding orbit - the population has increased 28 percent in two decades, to 51,337 - and many new homeowners were attracted to the sublime upper reaches of the Delaware, designated a national scenic and recreational river.

"We have our little islands of serenity," said Barbara Arrindell, a stained-glass artist and executive director of the anti-drilling group Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.

Since it was founded two years ago, Damascus Citizens has developed some clout. Its urbanized, media-savvy leadership has enlisted allies in New York City and Philadelphia, portraying natural gas as Armageddon for public drinking-water supplies.



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The organization's voice was further amplified last month by the HBO premiere of *Gasland*, a documentary by New York filmmaker Josh Fox, who vacationed as a youth at his family's cabin in Damascus Township. Fox dedicated the movie to Damascus Citizens.

John Hanger, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, called *Gasland* "fundamentally dishonest." But the soft-spoken Arrindell, who is credited in the film as a consultant, said it was an accurate reflection of her views, as well as those of her passionate colleagues.

Pat Carullo, a Staten Island, N.Y., native who moved to Wayne County after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, goes crimson with rage at the mention of hydraulic fracturing, the extraction technique that involves huge injections of water, chemicals, and sand deep into a well. He compares it to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

"Look at the gulf!" shouted Carullo, a Damascus Citizens cofounder who speaks in high-volume sound bites. "We're fighting for our lives here! Look at my hands. They're shaking! It's no game here!"

Carullo, a graphic designer, said the drilling issue was a fight to the finish for the gas industry and the public.

"This is where it's happening, and the industry knows it," he said. "This is where Philadelphia and New York meets ExxonMobil and Halliburton. Good luck! Somebody's got to win here."

Stoic dairy farmers like Amos Rutledge, 70, are flummoxed by folks like Carullo, who, they say, don't comprehend the farmers' need to make a living from the land, producing livestock, crops, timber, stone, maple syrup, and now natural gas.

"Some of these folks seem to enjoy fighting," said Rutledge, a distant cousin of Bob Rutledge's.

"I just walk away from them," he said of the "antis," as the farmers refer to the environmentalists.

Marian Schweighofer, who operates a 720-acre farm and nursery in Damascus Township with her husband, Edward, said the farmers were a bulwark against expanding suburbanization along the Delaware.

Each time a farmer goes under, she said, open land is replaced by houses on five-acre lots producing runoff to the Delaware from septic systems, chemically treated lawns, and asphalt.

"We're just dumb, greedy farmers," she said. "That's what we keep hearing."

Schweighofer, 54, organized the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance after gas-company agents began signing unsuspecting Wayne County farmers to leases. She did some research.

"If this is coming - a tremendous amount of land was already leased - and it's not going to be stopped, how do we as a community gain control of it, direct its course?" she asked.

The alliance, which now has 1,400 members who control more than 100,000 acres, hired the Philadelphia law firm Ballard Spahr L.L.P. to help negotiate lease terms with a gas operator the alliance recruited. The landowners chose a joint venture of Hess Corp. of New York and Newfield Exploration Co. of Houston.

Schweighofer said the landowners were willing to sacrifice some of the standard up-front payment to retain influence over where and how the drilling would occur, and to require the operators to use best-practice environmental controls.

The lease signed last year provides \$3,000 an acre, but less than half of that is paid during first 30 months. Less-restrictive leases typically pay more, and all of the money is delivered up front.

"Our members are incredibly close to the land," she said. "Their stewardship is what makes this area as clean and pristine as it is. This is our land. We need to make a living from it. We don't want pollution. That's why our leases restrict the activity."

"But nobody gives us credit for that," Schweighofer said. "They just say we're greedy."

Arrindell is unimpressed with the alliance's efforts, and its membership.

"I call them Marianettes because Marian is like the puppet master," she said.

According to the alliance, Newfield and Hess have leased more than 144,000 acres in Wayne County - including leases initially acquired by another operator that pulled out of the region because of the political resistance. Thus far, they have sunk more than \$100 million into the venture.

Newfield obtained permits to drill five exploratory wells before the DRBC declared its moratorium June 14. The exploratory wells will allow it to remove shale samples and run other geologic tests. No wells can be hydraulically fractured.

Gary Packer, Newfield's chief operating officer, said he would like the DRBC to make up its mind soon.

"From our standpoint, we need to understand what the playing field is," Packer said. "We need to have clearly defined rules."

The farmers who have signed leases are also eager to get the moratorium lifted; they'll lose more than half the signing bonus if Newfield and Hess walk away now. They plan to attend the DRBC's July 14 meeting to ask for a new hearing.

Karl Canfield, interviewed as he was milking his 70 Holsteins last week, said his gas-lease bonus offset the \$70,000 his farm lost last year because of the depressed dairy market. His wife, Susan, earns extra money cleaning the vacation homes of wealthy New Yorkers.



"Gas companies drilled something like 35,000 wells in this country last year," said Canfield. "There were a couple of major accidents. If you believe the 'antis,' the whole country should be a treeless desert."


The DRBC is likely to proceed slowly.

Last week, the commission received a letter from the northeast regional directors of the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that warned that gas drilling "has the potential to significantly degrade the natural habitats and water quality in the Delaware River Basin." The letter encouraged the DRBC to conduct its review carefully.

Contact staff writer Andrew Maykuth

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Comments

kenholt

Posted 03:44 AM, 07/04/2010

So, what are the terms for all Pennsylvanians? What is the revenue share to the commonwealth on gas produced, and how much is the environmental clean-up bond? If these corporations want to start punching holes in the aquifers, it better be worth it for everybody and every eventually. We should have learned decades ago that there is always a mess left after the fact that the taxpayers have to clean up.

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ahab

Posted 05:10 AM, 07/04/2010

So this dairy farmer can keep his farm another few years. But at the cost of fragmenting the land with heavy industrial drilling rigs and service equipment, and at the risk of producing milk poisoned by toxins in drinking water, soil and air. Check out "Gasland." Hydraulic fracturing is a high-impact heavy industry that will permanently alter the character of the land it touches, and no negotiated agreement with a driller will change that basic truth.

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goguenard

Posted 05:48 AM, 07/04/2010

Kenholt, I understand that your commonwealth decided to let the companies exploit the gas and left the royalties it could have collected on the table! Apparently the gambling lobby and its demands take more of Rendell's attention than an intelligent, balanced approach to a windfall. Coming from Texas, all I can say is that oil and gas extraction is by no means an immaculate process. But with major investments in oil exploitation company stocks I can thank someone for their lack of oversight, I guess. Too bad about the fallout.

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north country nimrod

Posted 07:37 AM, 07/04/2010

Too bad the "flatlanders" brought their tree hugging mentality with them when they migrated from that great state of New York that can't pass a budget! Also, too bad "everybody" doesn't trust government to do its job. Look up John Hangers' background and you'll find he's someone just as concerned about the environment as the "flatlanders" are. "Gasland", as far as I'm concerned, was a Michael Moore type "gotcha" type of onesided film - by a "flatlander"! DEP does a darned good job, even if some folks don't agree, take it from someone who worked for the state for 22 years. Drilling WILL happen, there's just toooo much money to be made!

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Iwantanotherparade

Posted 07:50 AM, 07/04/2010

So let me ask this question, is it better to let these farmers lose their land to have developed by non-efficient cookie cutter houses that need more imported fuels?

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Lee Woodmansee

Posted 07:57 AM, 07/04/2010

The Farmers of Wayne County have done a pretty good job of stewarding the land for over 200 years, give them some credit. The pseudo environmentalists belong to organizations like the Sierra Club that favor gas drilling, yet are against "in their backyard". Classic. These people forget that the reason to save the environment is so that people can live in a sustainable fashion on the land. They forget that there are real people involved who are simply trying to survive in Wayne County -- something that has become increasingly difficult without the outside incomes that the "antis" have.

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um, yeah

Posted 08:00 AM, 07/04/2010

toooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo much money? great rationale for ruining the land. Farmers and new yorker mcmanion owners alike ruining the environment for their own benefit.

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conrailmike

Posted 08:05 AM, 07/04/2010

Just a couple of things first When you sign a lease you have different rights one is to hold the company responsible for your water table which is spelled out in your lease second they must restore the land back,third they are held to standards set forth by the dep. These are only to mention a few and for all the Flatlanders you want regulations try working one of these farms for a week see how these people struggle to make ends meet.read how much their hands are tied when it comes to raising beef or milk cattle. Enjoy your tofu Oh and by the way one your loving Governor Fast Eddie just took a job with one of these companies. Its all about taxing these folks who work so hard in Pennsylvania on what they gain.

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nebulus

Posted 08:15 AM, 07/04/2010

North Country I'm not a flatlander but the drillers scare the heck out of me. They do not care about you or me or our land or anything else other than their stockholders and their own pockets. Who makes money? The drilling company and the stock holders. Then the property owners IF they have negotiated a good lease with the driller. Who gets screwed? The neighbors, anybody who lives downstream of the drill site, PA taxpayers who will have to pay for any clean up because the cleanup bond is so small. Can you keep in mind that the citizens of three states rely on the Delaware River for drinking water? Can you keep in mind that state forests and state parks and hunting and fishing and scenic waterways bring more money to PA than the drilling does? Can you keep in mind that long term local jobs are not created via drilling (drilling crews are imported, tech crews are imported, from prep to drilling to capping takes about a year and as Allegheny County has discovered, each drill site creates an average of SIX jobs of about a years duration but destroys local roads, destroys state forest (we own it and the govt gives it away), Check the fact that two thirds of the truckers at drill sites are from OUT OF STATE (PA ToFT). I am not saying don't drill but I am saying that like NY we can drill safely in PA and tax appropriately (extraction/severance tax - PA is the only state w/o this tax) and regulate properly (PA DCNR and DEP were both cut in the budget). Are you aware that the gas drilling companies are exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Laws (the Haliburton loophole)...Check out Wyoming Cnty model lease for landowners (18 pages that protects the landowner). The drillers are not going away since PA has the majority of Marcellus shale. We can only do our darndest to make sure they do it right with a minimum harm to you, me and our kids.

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ahab

Posted 08:16 AM, 07/04/2010

WTF is a "flatlander," nimrod? They may be better-educated, but your opposition is every bit as homegrown as you are. As for DEP, it is a corrupt, politicized bureaucracy that has been utterly captured by business interests. Take it from me, because I sued DEP and I won. John Hanger, despite his admirable background, is a single administrator. It would take decades and dozens of John Hangers with free reign to clean up DEP.

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aquifer. Next dumb question.

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dobenbec

Posted 08:29 AM, 07/04/2010

Why can't these farmers grow hemp. The world market price for hemp is ten times higher than wheat or corn. Theirs 35,000 different products that can be made from the cellulose of hemp. Its root system absorbs poisons from the earth. You can produce fuel with hemp. Henry Ford ran his model T on hemp. Everyone of these farmers could save their land growing hemp. Tell your senators and reps to join the bill introduced by Ron Paul to legalize hemp production!!!!!!!

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SBL Hostage

Posted 08:59 AM, 07/04/2010

I supervised the building of a prison in Wayne county. They attempted everything from calling us Nazis to pretending a long used illegal dumo was part of their culture being destroyed. Public meetings were filled with hippies bussed in from NY because of a couple of local socialists that didn't want it, though many of their family members already work at SCI Waymart on top of the hill.

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bugh

Posted 09:15 AM, 07/04/2010

Greedy of Wayne County and it's residents and ignorance of the consequences of actions will ruin our water supply and the beauty of Pennsylvania. I love how beautiful it is there and visit often. Now that greedy residents looking for a quick buck to get them out of a hole they never should have had them in will ruin our water, the countryside and the eco system. Tree hugger or not, do you even know what they use to get the gas out of your land? Stupid people you are!

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ItsABlackThangYouWouldntUnderstand

Posted 09:29 AM, 07/04/2010

While I feel sorry for the residents of Wayne County and their changing way of life - there is no way in Hell that their right to keep their farms by poisoning the half of the States drinking water trumps everones else right to safe drinking water. Once agin we are treated to the same old boring rhetoric about being tree huggers or hippies , if you don't bend over and spread 'em wide for Big Energy. Typically such comments are written by fat, unemployed, Republicans who - when they were living off the fat of government subsidized jobs, spent their money on silly toys like giant 4x4's and boats instead of putting money away for the future.

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Sherrill56

Posted 09:36 AM, 07/04/2010

These landowners would have income forever (and an unpolluted water table) if an entrepreneur rented the land to install solar panels. The solar energy is sold back to the grid, jobs are created with no McMansions built on the farmland. As solar panel efficiency is (inevitably) improved, new panels can be swapped in. No entrepreneurs available? How about a co-op? Pool your resources, use rebates and tax incentives and share the profits. Get national exposure, solve a problem and make some money. It's not easy but it's not impossible. The time is now.

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GomezRocks

Posted 09:47 AM, 07/04/2010

don't be fooled by these carpetbaggers from new york. their interest in wayne county is to maintain their quaint weekend getaways and have nothing to do with the best interests of the citizens of wayne county. you don't need a drilling rig to rape the land.

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Jim Barth

Posted 09:51 AM, 07/04/2010

Mr. Maykuth mentions Ms. Schweighofer's impression of how those opposed to drilling think of those locals who are lessors. What he doesn't mention is how verbally abusive and derogatory the local lessors are towards all who stand between them and their royalty checks, whether local resident, or the DRBC. It is a heated and nasty business, that consumes everyone in its path. From Mr. Maykuth's article, one would gain the impression that the lessors are all local and generational, and they are all dairy farmers. One would also believe there are only two options for the future, shale fracking, or five acre paved, plots in developments. Far from it, lessors are mostly just landowners, who threaten those false alternatives. There are out of towners in NWPOA, developers, lawyers, and land speculators. As mentioned in the article, my wife and I have just under 25 acres, purchased in 1989, and a house, without garage, or blacktop. We are in clean and green. The surrounding, approximately 1,500 acres, were leased to Chesapeake in mid 2008. That acreage is owned by two hunting clubs. Check their membership roles to see if there are any struggling locals, let alone dairy farmers. In this economy, millions of people have lost, or are in danger of losing, their homes, their jobs, their self-respect and their hope. Whether high volume, slickwater, multistage, hydraulic fracturing and drilling into shale should be permitted in the Delaware River Basin, as now practiced, and as now regulated, should have nothing to do with the economic circumstances of individual families. It is absurd to push to drill here and now, when the DRB has no such history, and the DRBC has no regulations in place. Damascus Citizens, and most people, consider this shale drilling and fracturing to be a health threat, and a health issue, period. That is what the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the other regulatory bodies, should be considering. Nothing else should be on the table.

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Fitz31

Posted 10:05 AM, 07/04/2010

We will be cleaning up the mess from the PA drilling for decades to come, mark my words!

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north country nimrod

Posted 10:23 AM, 07/04/2010

The Federal govt. agencies cited were only sending code words for STALL until after the November elctions. Drilling WILL happen, just like up here in Tioga and Bradford Counties. There's just TOOOOOO much money to be made!!!!

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mike I

Posted 10:54 AM, 07/04/2010

If ahab wants a county filled with McMansions, explain to me how that is better. Tear down the trees, pave over the land. That means more houses, more roads, more malls, more sewage, more runoff. Ask those downriver who have been flooded out of their homes several times in the last few years if they would like more runoff going into the Delaware. It would also mean more schools, more services, more taxes. Maybe the NY yuppies can afford them, but the folks who lived there for generations will not be able to. But, then, what do you care if the woodlands can look like a bigger version of Levittown?

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BillHicksLives!

Posted 11:11 AM, 07/04/2010

What a shoddy piece of journalism. Andrew Maykuth, did the drilling companies write this for you? The poor native Pennsylvanians who know how to manage their land being thwarted by the New Yorkers coming in telling them how to manage their land? Did you even watch "Gasland"? You fail to address any of the concerns brought up in the movie, like the witches brew of chemicals that these companies use in the "fracking" process, which will run off into the Delaware River which most people in this area get their drinking water from. How Dick Cheney exempted these companies from the Clean Water act, thus there is no regulation on their activities? How about the people out west who have had these wells drilled on their properties and are sorry for it, having had their drinking water contaminated to the point where it catches on fire? The environmental damage it has caused in these places, like poisoning rivers and wells, with dead fish and livestock as a result? You sir, are a corporate spokesman, right up there with Joe Isuzu.

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ffcino1

Posted 11:17 AM, 07/04/2010

ONE of the main the problems is we can't trust government to do a good job at policing/regulating dirty gas/oil companies who only care about profit. IF gov. did a better job, then we'd feel like there was some control. GASLAND makes it look like we'll become like a poisoned moon... it makes me hope they don't drill, BUT then there's the economic side - ESP. in a LONG, DEEP, RECESSION. i know a dairy farmer who signed for \$4 MILLION upfront + royalties... PLEASE tell me YOU'D turn down that \$!? many of us didn't have much choice but to sign since all our neighbors did, etc. now we have to let the chips fall where they may & hope for the best.

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elreyrey

Posted 11:23 AM, 07/04/2010

After reading the above comments, it's obvious most of the posters don't know what they're talking about. They believe all drilling is bad and will destroy water supplies and the rivers. They evidently got their information from "Gasland" and/or the 'Damascus Confused Citizens Group' and/or some of the other groups who are trying to stop drilling. Please people do your own research, making sure you use CREDIBLE sources. Responsible drilling will be more beneficial to the environment than land sub-division and over development.

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damascusmike

Posted 11:25 AM, 07/04/2010

The current controversy is based on fear mongering. The test wells do not use any fracking. The fracking process, if eventually used, has a very good track record, with chemicals that are found things we use every day, e.g., ice cream. I say, if, because newer technologies for fracking use little water and few chemicals. DRBC has little or no authority to second guess regulatory authorities that have already reviewed permit applications. Moreover, there has been a significant increase in the number of trained inspectors providing oversight of these activities. Fear mongering comes at the cost of the community. It has no place in our society!

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angler8

Posted 11:36 AM, 07/04/2010

As there is Natural gas drilling in 27 States and Fracking has now been used in all of these, one can assume by the statements made, that States like Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Texas, etc. are all now in ruins and there populations have all been poisoned or have cancer! Gasland was a money grabbing film that could care less if real truth was told, it was sensationalism at it's best. There is certainly resonicly gas drilling, and it seem people can not tell the difference between oil in 5,000 feet of water or stadard gas drilling on dry land. Fracking is done with 99% water and sand and 1% solvents. The company leased along the Delaware drainage, Hess, has agreed to closed loop process, where all fluids are recycled through special designed filtration systems. Comparing them to other pure drilling companies is unjust. The SRBC in the same timeframe in the Susquehanna basin has had their rules in place for more then two years and activity has produced many jobs now, and yet to come. It is time to stop supporting foreign oil, solar & wind can not do the job alone, and natural gas is domestic, abundant, and cleaner then all the oil and coal used today. I live on the Delaware and do not share any of the concerns of drinking my water now or in the future from gas drilling. The bottom line is, if gas exploration is discouraged, this land will all become housing, and how will that effect your water?

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tony82

Posted 12:19 PM, 07/04/2010

Its funny but I bet if these liberal a###holes from New York, who are migrating to our area had the foresight to purchase large tracks of land in the area before the gas boom, they would be singing a different song and laughing all the way to the bank cashing their royalty checks

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Gilliam

Posted 12:21 PM, 07/04/2010

I can't believe what I am hearing. Who scared the rural Pennsylvanians in the Marcellus Shale territory into thinking that if they don't lease their land to gas drilling it will soon fall to the bulldozer and become subdivisions? Have you people lost touch with reality, or were you just tricked by somebody who knew how to play on your emotions? The housing boom is dead, they won't be paving over north-central PA any time soon I don't think, and I think it's despicable that you're attacking "outsiders" and those horrible tree-hugging New Yorkers because you yourselves are in a tight spot. Please, you people need to see reality for what it is, and what gas drilling is for what it is. If you get money for leasing your land all well and good, but it's going to become an industrial site if you let this happen. Those new jobs aren't going to jump start your local economies either. Look at any other boom town in the USA. They might be briefly prosperous but once the boom subsides they lose their reason for existence and slide back into neglect. You won't be doing yourselves any long term favors. Not only will you just turn your communities into boom-town like locations whose prosperity will be unsustainable, you will potentially harm the viability of your land to support you in the future. I'm not saying all gas drilling leads to accidents, but you must know that the possibilities exist. Look at the Gulf Oil Spill. The possibility exists for major accidents to happen, and we know that many many smaller accidents have already occurred. Perhaps nobody else will have their water poisoned, but I don't believe in those odds. Who is to say it won't be your water that is contaminated? Who is to say my water won't be contaminated because of your judgement and insistence on upholding your "rights"? I can't see the future, but I can say that putting our futures at jeopardy like that for short-term relief is irresponsible and foolish.

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JimCC

Posted 12:33 PM, 07/04/2010

FYI, check the current HBO documentary "Gasland", dealing with places in the US, including Pa & out wes, where natural gas drilling/"fracking" has already occurred...Frightening...It's ruined the water table, and many people have gas coming out of the taps inside their houses, so they can put a lighter under their spigot and flames come out of the tap....If this drilling is to be done, it has to be done cleanly, or there's going to be hell to be paid, ruined water supplies, & much worse than even strip-mining for coal....If you've got flames coming out of your water taps inside your house, there's a problem...

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ahab

Posted 12:56 PM, 07/04/2010

Mike I, I was answering an unrealistic hypothetical that someone else presented -- that rural PA land would either be subdivided into mcmanions or it would be fracked. Of course under that scenario even endless mcmanions are preferable to a poisoned water supply, which is what we'll end up with if Big Oil/Gas has its way here. But I guess I'm just a carpetbagging outsider and not a true PA patriot like these poor poor farmers and nimrods who only want to sell their land rights to Texas-based corporate Big Oil/Gas, like the good Lord intended for them to do. Funny how frack supporters want to marginalize informed (and local) folks like me rather than to discuss facts, like the Halliburton loophole's exemption of fracking from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Superfund law. What could possibly go wrong under such tight regulatory conditions? But you go on, patriots, roll those dice for all of us.

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conrailmike

Anybody google earth to look what dish texas looks like? Anybody take a look at the gentlemen who is a politician running for office. Did anyone see how those test were done? And if you are worried about the water you can surly rely on the Delaware River Basin Commission lets see they are concerned about drilling how bout they worry about the sewage plants at Trenton, Morrisville, Philadelphia for a start.

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AHiredGun

Posted 01:16 PM, 07/04/2010

Has anyone of the anti "Gasland" stopped to think what is happening to all that water that is being polluted with carcinogens? It is being used to water livestock and crops, not to mention becoming drinking water for humans. Where does the livestock and crops end up? On our dinner plates! The fracturing process will slowly poison this country's waterable and its citizens if it is allowed to continue in its present form. If so, look for cancer cases to skyrocket and life expectancy rates to significantly decrease. Let's see if the anti "Gasland" crowd are concerned about that!

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calcurt

Posted 01:22 PM, 07/04/2010

I have lived in this area since the 1960's but I grew up in the suburbs and have a sense of both sides. In my opinion the NWPOA spent time to carefully research the issue and money to hire legal and environmental expertise to create property owner leases that will both protect the environment and allow responsible management of their resources. The property owner leases behaved reasonably. Have any of the protesters read a responsible lease or do they base their fear on past mistakes (which the NWPOA also perused to protect their members)? It would be sad to see people who have lived here for generations deprived of their right to harvest another crop as they have already done to survive. Do you know that cows produce phosphates which are also bad for our water? Do you expect farmers to get rid of their cows next?

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Eric

Posted 01:27 PM, 07/04/2010

Pennsylvania has been historically taken advantage of without regard to environmental damage. Always one step behind on purpose. Lets talk about the developers that built lots of housing in towns with no sewage treatment or laws protecting the local streams up there. Those are fragile limestone streams that acid rain has even hurt them.

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bartfr

Posted 01:33 PM, 07/04/2010

If you think this is mostly about protecting the environment, you are naive. It is mostly about wealthy New Yorkers worried about home values and their little "Edenesque" vacation homes, AND plain old politics. The comments here are made by folks with no real understanding of the technology involved, just some "talking points" from the "fundamentally dishonest" Gasland documentary, which probably is as biased and unscientific as "An Inconvenient Truth". But don't let facts, the needs of working folks, and reality get in the way of the fervor to protect my "villa" and the "stickleback guppies" or whatever.

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hockee34

Posted 01:34 PM, 07/04/2010

Enjoy the H2S (hydrogen sulfide) that will be released from this. Those up there near the process will not have to worry about the the pollution because H2S in 50ppm will kill you where you stand and it puddles just like propane.

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dcredhead

Posted 01:50 PM, 07/04/2010

Oh... Where to begin? First, my thoughts to the lady named Marian in the article: those of us who don't believe in reckless drilling with no transparency HARDLY think you are all "poor dumb farmers." On the contrary. YOU must think your neighbors are pretty stupid to believe your artfully crafted talking points (did the PR firm for your lawyers pull those together? Very nice). Yes, no doubt, I am sure the first thing you thought after being offered \$3K an acre was how to be a "steward of the land." I am sure that is the first thing that came to your mind. Multiple \$3K times your 720 acres and what you get is a humble altruistic motive of "maintaining the land." C'mon, now. Let's cut the bull. Secondly -- those of us who are anti drilling aren't all members of the Sierra Club. Hell, I'm a pro big business card carrying Republican who believes in LESS intervention. But I hardly believe in "NO" intervention. A free market doesn't mean a free for all and given the major repercussions, it is categorically insane to allow these gas companies to drill with no transparency or oversight. That's what many of us are asking for -- yet, you all making us out to be radical environmentalists. Um. Wrong.

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mackwheaton

Posted 02:03 PM, 07/04/2010

Seems to me a 120 acre farm in the middle of the great New York migration would fetch a couple million; that would allow the farmer to retire, buy another farm further west in the state, or at least move on to a more lucrative occupation. Few of us go through life without having to adapt and change, why is it always a tragedy when a farmer has to do it?

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applepie

Posted 03:51 PM, 07/04/2010

You would think that the Marcellus Shale play is the only play in the entire United States. I am a NWPOA member. I support Marian Schweighofer and the additional 1500 landowners that we represent. No one understands the amount of time and energy that has gone into this. For more than 2 years we as land owners stood together and worked diligently to get a lease that protected the environment and ourselves. It was not about the most money we could receive. It was about doing the right thing to protect the environment. It's very upsetting to see the community splitting over this. We need to come together and focus our energy on the facts. Understanding what hydraulic fracturing really is and what chemicals are used. I hate to disappoint all of you but if you chew gum you are chewing one of those chemicals that is used in fracking. Our rights as landowners is being taken away from us. We are the only county in the entire state of Pennsylvania that is not able to move forward. We are good stewards of the land. We care about the water. We want COMMON SENSE REGULATIONS put in place. People need to get better educated and stop watching HBO movies! It's a movie....that is selling tickets. I bet ya Josh Fox is rolling in the money these days thanks to all of you! He had a brilliant fictional movie he made. Does he realize how much he is frightening people with his fictious non-sense?

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nebulus

Posted 05:21 PM, 07/04/2010

I have to laugh. This is about gas drilling companies that want free reign over landowner's land and mineral rights and are VERY unhappy that landowners have gotten smarter over time. The drilling companies do NOT make for long term jobs or job growth. The drilling companies do make pollution. They are not "local" drilling companies (Shell, Exxon, India, France, Netherlands, Texas, Oklahoma). PA has a long history of coddling mining (and drilling) companies and then having tax payers foot the bill when the companies walk away... As for the landowners, they have gotten much smarter and now don't sign away all rights to their land like they used to and they get a much better price(see the Wyoming cnty or Lackawanna cnty lease examples at their respective landowners web sites) for the land (\$5000 per acre for a five year lease). I can agree that most people have tried to be good stewards of the land and that there is a history of good stewardship but historically that good stewardship has been about the local impact but now it is about the money (Lackawanna cnty has leased 38,000 acres 1/8th of the county to gas drillers including 120 acres by a cemetery association and 115 acres by a Baptist church, both near residential areas) and NOT about good stewardship of the land as it impacts a far larger population. The gas drilling companies will impact the quality of the drinking water for millions of people living downstream UNLESS IT IS DONE CORRECTLY. Yes do your research, check out teh efforts environmental groups have made to be good stewards, check out teh efforts of county landowners associations efforts at trying to be good stewards and check out the abysmal records of the drilling companies for being good stewards and for screwing the local communities. THIS NEEDS TO BE RIGHT. A few people can make good money at EVERYBODY'S EXPENSE.

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Jim Barth

Posted 05:55 PM, 07/04/2010

Mr. Maykuth brings up the census data information in order to make a point that Wayne County is part of NYC's orbit, and that over the past two decades, the way he presents it, there has been a robust growth rate of 28%. What Mr. Maykuth fails to mention is that 19% of that growth occurred between the 1990 and 2000 census, leaving a growth rate of 9% over the two decades, between 2000 and 2010, or more importantly, only 7.5% from 2000 through 2010. The 1990's saw the dot com bubble, and the beginning of the residential real estate bubble. 2001 saw 9/11. As a previous poster pointed out, the growth rate has more than plummeted since 2007 or so, and it does not look like people will be breaking down the Wayne County doors, anytime soon, unless gas drilling and shale fracking is allowed to proceed. Then, we will have an influx of out of state workers, but they will not be from NYC. They will have Texas, Oklahoman and Louisianan accents. Who knows, with the drilling scenario, we could get the worst of both worlds, pollution from drilling, and pollution from the building of shoddy housing for the 10-20 year workforce.

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kdubs215

Posted 06:15 PM, 07/04/2010

Wah Wah big energy These lifers needs this influx of cash ... And fact of the matter is we need the Oil ... its a longer process but we need it

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jamesdugan

Posted 08:49 PM, 07/04/2010

In "When the Middle East Came to PA", we see the local impact of gas companies. Few people will benefit from the gas drilling and the potential impact on the quality of rural PA life is devastating. The DRBC are doing what DEP are scared and too politically connected to try: protect the resources of PA for the citizens. The mineral rights are ridiculous to even comprehend. You own something 5000 ft below you? If the farmers and Gas companies were so forthright, why is the speed of this drilling, lease arrangements, and company switching so blinding (a little less than two years for most). The roads up in Bradford county are clogged with white pick ups and water trucks and the price of real estate is rising with all outside money, that will continue to remain outside. The rural people of the state are being railroaded by the first glimpse of cash in forty years and they are taking it to the peril of the state and their way of life.

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Johann

Posted 09:10 PM, 07/04/2010

Once again we see the city yuppies attacking the farmers in Pennsylvania. These rich yuppies have no idea how farmers produce food that they pick up at Wegmans and other upscale yuppie hangouts. The war against farmers is taking place all over the state; in Lancaster county the Amish are under siege from the rich kids in the central government because their cow manure might get into the Chesapeake, again the playground of the million dollar yachts and the millionaires who own the US government. Farmers should go on strike and tell the yuppies and the ecology freaks to grow their own food.

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Beth C

Posted 09:11 PM, 07/04/2010

Here in the Western part of Pennsylvania we're seeing a lot of problems with the shale gas drilling. People and animals are showing up with neuropathies - weakness and heaviness in their legs. Respiratory problems and unusual nosebleeds are also being experienced. Those who are bathing in contaminated water are experiencing everything from rashes to skin lesions to seizures from the vaporized fumes. This can not be an issue determined on the basis of money. People are getting sick. This is a PUBLIC HEALTH issue. This is a HUMAN RIGHTS issue. We must have a moratorium so that this can be studied - without Marcellus Shale industry funding, thank you very much - and so that it can be determined if there is a safe way of doing this. In the meantime, we can not have individual greed, industry greed, and political corruption drive the decisions (as they have been up to this point) particularly when people's LIVES ARE AT RISK.

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Kevin Michael Palan

Posted 11:05 PM, 07/04/2010

I know a good many farmers up here, and it's a shame. Family farming is not a viable business anymore. These people are really desperate. The money looks sweet, but the evidence of destruction is overwhelming. I feel really sorry for these generations old farms, but this is not the solution to their problems. Giving family farmers back their market and their heritage, and ceasing the corporate farm mentality that is killing them is the only solution. Let them do what they do best and keep big oil/money the hell out of here. Kevin M. Palan - former Philadelphian & Wayne County Resident

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Kevin Michael Palan

Posted 11:11 PM, 07/04/2010

@damascusmike. Is there much Benzene in the ice cream you eat? How about Isopropanol? Sounds tasty.

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Delaware Jim

Posted 02:42 AM, 07/05/2010

These farmers should shut up and get jobs. They think their way of life is more important than the health and safety of several million people.

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BillHicksLives!

Posted 08:54 AM, 07/05/2010

Gasland a money grabbing film? This is the latest talking point handed to you people by the drilling companies? It's a documentary that was made with no studio backing and being shown on HBO. Yeah, I'm sure he's rolling in the dough. Because making a documentary attacking drilling companies is a sure fire money maker. I would think the way to make money would be to make one supporting the drilling. I also like how the article's author also takes pains to point out that he is apparently not a real local since the home he has there is only a vacation home, despite the fact that his family built it 40 years ago and he has been spending a great deal of his life there. Like it should matter anyway. For those who also repeat the industry's talking points of "it's the same as gum", you might want to look at the long list of carcinogenic substances in the drilling fluids. And in "Gasland", independent labs test drinking water from sites where the drilling has been done and find high amounts of these same carcinogens in it. For all the personal attacks on the film maker and on the film, these facts have not been disproved. Fact is this is an industrv that needs to be heavly regulated or we will all nav a huge price.

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ShaleNo

Posted 09:51 AM, 07/05/2010

To read this article, one would think that Wayne County has two groups of people: farmers and weekenders. In fact, the majority of people in the area are neither. Instead, they are full-time, usually life-long residents who live in small towns, or on a very few acres, working non-farm jobs. For those in this segment who are lucky enough to be homeowners, their homes are the biggest investments they will make; unlike the big farmers, however, their acreage is too small for drilling to compensate them for the loss of value that occurs when drilling occurs nearby. To hear the NWPOA (and unfortunately, this article) tell it, those who own hundreds of acres are the struggling face of rural America, battling a bunch of limousine liberals determined to keep them poor out of pure spite and jealousy (and I'm not making that up, NWPOA members commonly argue that spite and jealousy are the prime motivations of those who oppose drilling). But the truth is that if Marcellus development occurs in Wayne County, NWPOA members (including not only farmers but many gas speculators, hunting clubs owned by wealthy out-of-towners, etc.) stand to make millions while their poorer neighbors -- those who either rent or own just a few acres -- see declines in their home values, threats to their health and way of life from polluted water and air, and the conversion of their economy to a boom-and-bust cycle that will leave them with nothing once the gas companies have gone away.

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angler8

Posted 10:30 AM, 07/05/2010

You can tell a liberal from miles away, even when they try to hide it to seem fair. Now even hunters are an upper class of elitists that are here to profit at the expense of the people. When do you people ever quite your line of bull.

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UpperDelawareDottie

Posted 10:44 AM, 07/05/2010

I reluctantly signed a lease with NWPOA, as I was surrounded by large landowners who'd already signed--some with company leases, some with NWPOA. The gas companies could drill under my land without my permission if I didn't sign and I felt terribly pressured. Yes, we NEED to end our dependence on foreign energy sources. All that gas is under us here in NEPA, but PLEASE, just slow it down and make it safe. What's the huge hurry? If the gas has been here millions of years, let's take a couple more years and make sure the safety regs are in place. IF drilling is to take place here, do it right. The large landowners who have signed leases feel they have the right to make decisions for smaller landowners, and feel as if we have no say-so because we have smaller land parcels. Hey, it's my land, just like it's theirs, whether I have 10 acres or they have 720. My water is just as important as their water. And, it's only been in recent (last 30 or so) that the farmers STOPPED dumping their farm waste (wastewater, pesticides and manure) directly into the Delaware River, after the river was designated Wild And Scenic, so don't believe that "all" farmers are "good stewards of the land." Drive by most farms and you'll see tons of rusted out farm equipment, old fence, sagging buildings and JUNK all over their property. That certainly isn't "good stewardship." Clean up your own houses and then we may start believing you.

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dcredhead

Posted 12:08 PM, 07/05/2010

All you folks that hate these "rich yuppies" from NYC who either have moved to the area or have weekend homes... guess what: YOU have profited from them being there. YOU have profited from higher property values on your homes over the years, money being spent in stores and restaurants (thus CREATING JOBS) and sales tax revenue going into your local coffers. These folks pay property taxes on weekend homes which benefit YOUR KIDS in local school systems. If these "rich yuppies" you all hate so much pulled out of the area and went somewhere else, you'd see property values fall and revenue dry up. So quit your complaining since YOU profit from it. And guess what? Whether you like it or not, they pay taxes on their homes just like you do and have as much of a say as you do because of it Taxes are the great equalizer, my friends. I didn't realize that making money and being successful qualified to marginalize others. I have no problem with people who have made money and want to spend it. Whether we all like it or not, our economy depends upon it. Your region depends on it. Get over it.

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ShaleNo

Posted 02:33 PM, 07/05/2010

@angler8: I'm glad you thought I seemed like I was trying to be fair, because I am. And for what it's worth, I'm a hunter and fisherman myself. Here's the thing about the hunting clubs: there are a lot of them in the area (and throughout PA -- for example, the recent blowout in Clearfield County was on land owned by the Punxsutawney Hunting Club), they're often hundreds of acres of (mostly) forest, which makes them great for the water quality of the Delaware so long as they remain that way, and, most importantly for present purposes, the people who own them do not depend on them to make a living. They're a luxury item (kind of like a second home, I guess). In the end, of course, it doesn't really matter who's elite and who's not, who was a good steward of the land prior to drilling and who wasn't. What matters is what drilling will do if it happens, and the evidence strongly suggests that the natural resources of the area will be wrecked, and the water supply of millions will be endangered. This elite vs non-elite stuff only matters to the politics of whether drilling will happen, and my point is this: Portraying the struggle as regular folks against big-city elites is untrue, because it's really big landowners against small.

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stripyvarmint

Posted 08:26 PM, 07/05/2010

Resist Big Energy! We are the custodians of this land, not those cronies. Let's have a benefit to buy out the farmers at good prices and make their farms open space forever. Poisoners of children, usurers, thieves! Let's fight back!

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angler8

Posted 09:02 AM, 07/06/2010

Sorry, There is NO evidence that gas exploration will ruin the land. You are all quoting a movie that was made to stir up emotions and make money. DEP & EPA all have found no direct pollution associated with gas drilling, but a movie maker did? Again, based on this thinking, there are now 27 States that lie in ruins from gas drilling, and PA. has been destroyed over 50 years ago in the western portion by this energy intrusion, so what is the point of saving these acres, when the whole country will kill you with the poisons you claim are already there? PA started the energy movement over one hundred years ago, and it is poised to produce cleaner energy to take its place for the future.

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wayne michael

Posted 11:57 AM, 07/06/2010

I lived in Wayne County just a few miles from Damascus and 4 miles from the Delaware river. There is NO WAY the cow paths they consider roads up there can handle the heavy equipment that has destroyed roads in adjoining counties. While I feel for the dairy farmers in that area who are victims of Pa. archaic milk price fixing, which is run like our liquor control board, corrupt to the bone. I would bot want that fracking going on anywhere near my home. These out of state gas companies like Cabot gas and oil from Texas (who have been suspended for a year because of spills) are going to rape the land, water and infrastructure in order to make their money, then leave. Whose going to clean up their mess. Take a guess.

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injunraiv

Posted 07:10 PM, 07/06/2010

I live in Wayne county as well, and I am appalled at the misinformation coming from the anti drilling crowd. I get it that you don't want your water polluted, I really do. But you make it sound like this is what happens every time there is oil activity, and this is clearly not the case. Sure, it happens. Those poor folks in Dimock are suffering. But interestingly, their problems might not even be related to drilling. Methane happens in wells even without drilling - it's been happening for a hundred years. It's the reason drillers don't want to go too far when they drill your water well - they don't want to hit that layer. The fact of the matter is land ownernd DO have mineral rights in PA, like it or not. The DRBC seems to have over stepped it's bounds, and like any arm of gubment that does that it will be hard to make them pull back. But IMHO, they need to pull back...

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Jim Barth

Posted 07:48 PM, 07/06/2010

The gas extraction industry writes simple talking points so that lessors, and lobbyists, have something to say. I find it fairly astonishing when those supporters can not even get the simple talking point right. There have been well over 1,500 documented cases of spills, leaks, and other surface incidents relating to contamination of either land or water. There have also been many cases directly related to the process of drilling and fracturing gas wells, whether through improper casing, no casing, migration, whatever. The talking point recently, and incorrectly, referred to in this comment section, relates to the exact moment when hydraulic fracturing occurs. That talking point is highly debatable. Studies have not been performed, that are complete, peer reviewed, and accepted within the scientific community. The costs related to such studies are prohibitive, and the chemicals are proprietary, which helps to make those costs prohibitive. The results of the phase two investigation in Pavillion, Wv. are not even finished yet, to give an example of how difficult and expensive it is to even perform a local investigation involving 39 wells, 11 of which were found to contain chemicals used in drilling and fracturing. That is the major reason why the US EPA has recently been given funding, and authority, to perform such a study. As to the possibility that the methane in the drinking water of the 39 or so families in Dimock (do these incidents come in 39?), not having been caused by the drilling and casing mistakes of Cabot; that is flat out propaganda, at this point. There are also heavy metals, and other chemicals that have contaminated the water, in Dimock. There are hundreds of examples across the U.S., and they will continue to exist, no matter how many times the talking point people deny their existence.

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angler8

Posted 09:06 AM, 07/07/2010

There are no leases signed anywhere in the country stronger on environmental concerns, then those written by the NWPOA. This is the group that has the majority of land in the Delaware basin under contract. Three years of planning, with legal fees of \$250,000 went into those leases. They make the ones signed in Dimock pale by comparison. Lots of bonus was given up to insure those protections.

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injunraiv

Posted 01:08 PM, 07/07/2010

Gosh Jim, I'm really glad to know you have all the information covered. You are really impressive with how much you know about this topic. But then again, so are the many people who have been investigating this for the last several years. Interestingly, we've come to a different conclusion. We went to great lengths to make an agreeable lease that protects our intertests as residents of this community. We took less money to insure this was done correctly - there goes the greedy landowner argument, I guess. We have water testing and such written into the lease, and BTW, agreements about what to do IF an accident happens. Do I trust corporations to live up to this? Absolutely not - that's why we're also forming watchdog groups to make sure our leases are being followed. The gall of some to think they know all about this... Holy cow, that takes some brass ones buddy. I am not some corporate shill. You can blather on about 'talking points' all you want. The fact of the matter is still that PA landowners have rights to the minerals under their property. Sure, we'd love everything to be left all pristine and such, but the simple truth is we have mines all over the place, oil wells, gas lines, electric grids, etc already. Hell, they don't even want cell towers put in here because it will detract from the natural beauty. And talk to those folks over near the windmills in Waymart, they'll crab up a storm as well. We need the energy, and we have it. We have the rights to it. And yet according to folks like Jim we shouldn't take advantage of it? Puhleeze.

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livingdog

Posted 03:53 PM, 07/07/2010

Hey elreyrey.... can you list the toxins, by name, that are in the drilling hydraulic fluid recipe?... No? Then stop insulting intelligent people with your commentary and try drinking the well water at some of the leasors houses...

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livingdog

Posted 04:09 PM, 07/07/2010

injunraiv, apparently your mineral rights are far more important than the 15+ millions of people that MAY be effected by a drilling / water contamination "incident". I live in Louisiana. I live here and I get to see 1st hand the absolute natural wonders of an "it'll never happen and if it does, it'll be minimal" kind of situation. No matter what you had legally written into the lease, it's not just YOU and YOUR land. Not on this scale. AND banal references to cell towers and transmission lines.... please. Wake up. I guess Cheney will drink from your well water everyday, just as I'm sure he's down here swimming in the gulf right now.

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Jim Barth

Posted 04:23 PM, 07/07/2010

The anonymous, self described NWPOA lessors who are posting comments, don't seem to understand, or care about, the difference between whatever security they believe THEIR PRIVATE LEASE AGREEMENT does, or does not, provide them, as opposed to the rule of LAW, whether State, Federal or Delaware River Basin, that would protect all. As a non-lessor, I am asking to be protected by LAW. The lessor's lease agreement does not protect their non-lessor neighbors. They just don't seem to care about their non lessor neighbors. Simple story.

injunraiv Posted 09:33 AM, 07/08/2010
 OK, so Jim now wants to abide by the law. Nice. I'll remember that when the DRBC ruling is declared void. And BTW, I don't care about my neighbors? You're daft. Remember, lessors took LESS money to get a lease that protects us, and by extension, our neighbors. I've lived here all my life, and I don't know everybody. But funny I've never heard of you until this gas business came up. Who are you and what are your qualifications to make such educated proclamations about all legal matters and drilling issues? You sound like a lobbyist to me. Or maybe just another in the seemingly endless stream of people who just enjoy stirring everyone up with hype and fear/smear?

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injunraiv Posted 12:03 PM, 07/08/2010
 Hmmmm. I just found out something interesting. It seems our pal Jim stands to gain from farms going into development - lots of real estate to sell if you catch my drift. He doesn't even live in an area that is going to be effected. So either he's an altruistic saint, or something worse. I'm still trying to decide...

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Howitshurtin Posted 12:36 AM, 07/09/2010
 No one has the right to cause harm to the environment. Any venue which does, violates every civil right we as people have as citizens. "The law should protect the liberty of the individual". We have seen enough horror in our lives. Why would someone consider selling horror and a lesser quality of life for financial gain? Howitshurtin

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angler8 Posted 10:26 AM, 07/09/2010
 Well, all who want no harm at all to our environment should stop using that terrible oil to heat their homes! Look what it did to the gulf. Using wood? The emission rate is 10 times what either coal or oil produce. If wind is your answer, how about the decible factor of your neighbors, Plus eyesore, and what powers your home when it does not blow? Of course solar is the answer, except we do not get enough sunny days in the east to make it effective and it is heavily subsidized by government taxes on all your neighbors. Or will it be the three mile island power that has no down side at all? This is a simple case of "Not in my backyard" but I want the benefits of power produced in someone elses!

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jethroellie Posted 07:16 PM, 07/09/2010
 Its far simpler than portrayed. Citizens of a rural county who contributed pine timbers for ship masts in the tall ships age to maple sugar (non slave made alternative) to bluestone, soft woods, hardwoods, dairy, lamb, wool, then more dairy, and poultry, to providing respite from city living vacationing, now have their next resource to contribute. Gas. Every time on a hot day a city person turns up their air conditioner, they are burning more COAL and FUEL OIL used to make electricity, instead it will be more natural gas, 60% less carbon. Risks are extremely light and far less than industrial risks taken daily in the DRB. The precip rate in Wayne County is 3 million gallons / acre annually. A frac job uses 3-4 million once. There are 30 impermeable geo layers from the aquifer to the Marcellus, impermeable! It comes down to there are takers and givers, and there are those who need to believe the worst and don't have the ability to decipher truth. The landowners here are the givers, generous, willing to contribute their resource. Gas development will proceed, the DRBC has acted outside its authority and under influence of personal vendetta and bias, which will be revealed soon. Fanatics are fanatics - those who really can't bear it need to move. And people who move to S Wayne County thinking they can make an easy living real estate brokering need to reassess before their income is zero. Jethro

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jethroellie Posted 10:14 PM, 07/09/2010
 - Shale gas has revived the gas horizon, now we have 100 yrs of supply, instead of decline. Mr. Barth companies early on will err in a new play, correct and advance, IE Cabot. Shale gas extraction is very safe and the PA Marcellus is prolific, giving the ability to landowners of making great contribution. There is no heavy metal contamination and the chemicals under your sink have more risk to you than a well down the road. S Wayne County is not prospective, but cityfolk who don't like the oil/gas industry will stay away- GOOD! Locals can go about their good lives. The Barnett has been underway for 10 yrs, you may want to go visit and see how many deaths it has caused. N Wayne will produce 2-3 TRILLION cubic feet of gas over the next 30 years, a great gift for the United States. Gas development is going forward. Stingy people unwilling to give, should move elsewhere. Jethro

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jethroellie Posted 10:19 PM, 07/09/2010
 A Mr. Carullo of Exxon has been invited to speak to the NE PA community and share his views of the industry and also will speak about his family's dysfunctional history. A key to this whole story. Jethro

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injunraiv Posted 09:43 AM, 07/12/2010
 LOL... No, howsitshurtin isn't any sort of radical tree hugger... :rolleyes: NEXT!

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