

This is NOT your Grandfather's Gas Well!



LightHawk © J. Henry Fair 2009

Catskill Mountainkeeper

Liquid Stored at Well Site for Fracking

Marcellus Shale

Natural gas will be extracted mainly from the Marcellus shale layer— 5,000 to 8,000' deep.

Shattering Rock with Chemicals

The natural gas is dispersed throughout the rock—not in large pockets—so water and secret toxic chemicals are pumped down under high pressure to shatter the rock (hydrofracking). Drilling and fracking can extend horizontally up to a mile underground.

Forcing out Gas

Loud compressors run 24/7 to force out the unpressurized gas for the well's lifetime—up to 40 years. Their constant noise level is equivalent to that of a propeller plane flying overhead, or a concrete mixer.

Industrial Sites

Well sites are industrial areas of 3 to 15 acres, with roads, drill rigs, pipelines, storage tanks, compressors, dozens of tanker trucks, holding lagoons for toxic fluids, bright lights, and buildings for workers.

The BRSC Gas Production Task Force is a group of residents of the greater Binghamton area who want to protect our communities, local economies, land, water, and air.

We are farmers, students, teachers, businesspeople, landowners, renters, and many others who live here and love this area.

We work together to protect the land, air and water on which our lives and livelihoods depend.

Pictured below, the Jonah gas field in WY: Well pads at the same 40-acre spacing allowed in our area..... Is this our future?



Skytruth

BRSC Gas Production Task Force Projects:

- Public Forums and Workshops
- Provide Speakers upon Request
- Grassroots, door-to-door education
- Media and Policy work
- And More (have ideas to suggest?)

Contact us to learn more or get involved!

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition Gas Production Task Force

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Thanks to Shaleshock Citizens' Action Coalition
 for the creation of this brochure
<http://www.shaleshock.org>

Natural Gas Drilling

in the

Southern Tier of NY



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www.wvsoro.org

How does the new "hydrofracturing" differ from traditional drilling?

Who will pay for

- water pollution
- road damage
- loss of our property values?

How can we protect ourselves from being victims of large corporations?

A large but unknown percentage of our region is already leased!

If you love this area, get involved!

Our Environment:

Water Use: Each fracking uses 2 to 9 million gallons of water (3.5 on average)—taken from our streams, ponds, and aquifers *for free*.

Toxic Chemicals: Each fracking job uses a cocktail of *140,000 pounds of chemicals*, including benzene, toluene, kerosene, and formaldehyde. Many cause cancer, birth defects, or lung disease. 65 are classified as hazardous waste, but because of gas industry exemptions, *none are handled as hazardous*.

Radioactivity and Heavy Metals: The 30 to 80% of the fracking fluid that comes back out of a well is even more toxic—it has picked up radioactivity, salts, and heavy metals (e.g. arsenic and mercury) from the shale. Where will it go?

Water Contamination: Accidents occur often: toxic spills, explosions, and contamination of drinking wells, aquifers, and surface water. After drilling, some people have so much methane in their tap water that they can light it.

Air Pollution: Toxic gases such as benzene, acetone, radon, methane, and sulfur are released at well sites. They endanger workers, leaseholders, and neighbors. Some produce low-level ozone. Once-pristine drilling areas now rival Los Angeles in their smog levels.

Proximity to Homes & Wells: Wells can be drilled and fracked up to 100' from a house, 50' from a lake or stream, and 150' from a school. They can extend under your home.

Disposal--No Good Solution: Used fracking fluid requires specialized treatment that does not yet exist in NY. It may be trucked to PA or injected deep into empty gas wells. Toxic “produced water” that comes out with the gas can be spread on roads to prevent winter icing.

Gas Industry Exemptions:

The oil and gas industry, unlike all others, is exempt from:

- The Clean Air Act
- The Clean Water Act
- The Safe Drinking Water Act
- Superfund Law
- The Federal Right to Know Act
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Local land use and noise ordinances

They do not have to tell us what chemicals they inject under us, even in life-threatening emergencies!



What do you want to leave for your grandkids?

Forced Taking of Land Rights: If 60% of the land area around you is leased, you may be forced into a drilling unit. Chemicals can be injected under your home, drinking well, and property, and your gas can be sucked out from the side. *Even if you don't sign a lease!* You will receive the minimum in royalties.

Anyone's land can be taken through eminent domain for the massive network of pipelines that will snake throughout our region as each individual well is connected to the Millennium Pipeline, running from Corning to near NYC.

Economic Impacts:

These are tough times—many are struggling to make ends meet. With big sign-up bonuses and promises of royalties, hopes are high. Is it too good to be true?

Decreasing Royalties: Production, and thus royalties, quickly taper off after the first year (50% on average). But the environmental effects remain forever.

Local Industry Damage: Heavy industrialization of our rural landscape can harm our vital local industries: agriculture, wineries, outdoor recreation, and tourism. These bring in 18x more revenue than gas drilling. *Are we willing to put them at risk?*

Property Values: After drilling, nearby property and home values plummet. Already, some banks will not give mortgages to people buying property with leases conveying surface rights.

Road and Bridge Repair: Each well fracking requires 550 to 2,500 tanker truckloads of water and waste (depending on water use; 3.5 million gallons requires 961 truckloads). Truck traffic continues during production. Who will pay for road and bridge repairs? Our local taxes?

Emergency Response: Chemical fires, explosions, spills, and increased traffic accidents require more emergency personnel and specialized training. Who will pay for this?

Local Jobs? Many gas industry jobs are specialized and use transient out-of-state workers.

Societal Impacts: Areas that industrialize rapidly due to gas drilling experience high cost-of-living increases and rising numbers of medical visits, court cases, arrests, and crimes. Long-term residents report lower satisfaction with their community and quality of life.