

Thirteen articles on natural gas drilling dated February 17 & 18, 2010

The cat is out of the bag the tide is turning. Natural gas production and extraction cannot continue with business as usual. The natural gas extraction industry must reconsider the dangers their practices place on all of us. Below are excerpts from 13 articles with links to the full article. Thanks to Brendan O'Connor for these posts on Sustainable Otsego's listserv.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1819819920100218?type=marketsNews>

UPDATE 3-US House committee investigates drilling practice

- Fracking could make U.S. self-sufficient in gas by 2030.
- Some in Congress want to give EPA regulatory authority.
- Residents say contaminates water. Drillers deny it.

By Ayesha Rascoe (Adds comments from environmental group)

WASHINGTON, Feb 18 (Reuters) - The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee said on Thursday it was investigating the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and human health....

<http://energyandenvironmentblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2010/02/house-energy-and-commerce-comm.html>

House Energy and Commerce Committee to investigate hydraulic fracturing

11:26 AM Thu, Feb 18, 2010
Dave Michaels/Reporter

The House Energy and Commerce committee today requested information about hydraulic fracturing from eight oilfield services companies. The companies include Halliburton, BJ Services, Schlumberger, Frac Tech Services, Superior Well Services, Universal Well Services, Sanjel Corporation, and Calfrac Well Services.

The move is significant because one of the committee's senior Democrats, Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado, thinks the EPA should regulate the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing,

http://www.tiogapublishing.com/articles/2010/02/17/free_press_courier/doc4b7c54d436533553501632.txt

Is flowback and waste from gas drilling radioactive?

Rewards and Risks of the Marcellus
Part I in a series

By Sharon Corderman

Published: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:46 PM CST

Claims have been made that the potential exists for some level of radioactive material to be in the wastewater and drill cuttings coming from the Marcellus shale. According to Peter Davies, professor of biology at Cornell University, New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reported that brine samples taken from 12 Marcellus wells that were actively producing gas last year came back with higher than expected levels of "NORM" - naturally occurring radioactive material. In fact, some brines were reported to have levels of radium-226 as high as 250 times the allowable level for discharge into the environment and thousands of times higher than the maximum allowed in drinking water.

http://www.newsok.com/congressional-panel-to-investigate-hydraulic-fracturing-for-natural-gas/article/3440455?custom_click=headlines_widget

Congressional panel to investigate hydraulic fracturing for natural gas

BY CHRIS CASTEEL The Oklahoman

Published: February 18, 2010

WASHINGTON — A powerful congressional committee served notice today that it will investigate whether a common practice in natural gas drilling poses environmental risks.

Leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent letters to the heads of eight companies asking for information about hydraulic fracturing, a method in which water and chemicals are injected at high speeds into a well to fracture rock and free up natural gas.

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-petition_18met.ART0.Central.Edition1.4bf0045.html

Flower Mound group plans petition drive to block applications for natural gas pipelines, wastewater facilities

12:00 AM CST on Thursday, February 18, 2010

By WENDY HUNDLEY / The Dallas Morning News

whundley@dallasnews.com

A group of Flower Mound residents is launching a petition drive to force to a moratorium on applications for natural gas pipelines and wastewater collection facilities.

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x58453.xml>

Ask the Experts: Carl Kirby on Marcellus Shale

Posted: February 18, 2010

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Welcome again to "Ask the Experts," a regular web feature that highlights the expertise of various Bucknellians in a range of topics related to current news events and other timely subjects.

This week, we asked geology Professor Carl Kirby, who has studied acid mine drainage and the effects of its by-product on streams, to talk about Marcellus Shale and the implications of drilling the Pennsylvania formation for gas.

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=3897272>

Forest Service wants judge to reverse Pa. ruling

(AP)

The U.S. Forest Service wants a federal judge in Erie to reverse his December ruling which temporarily lifted a ban on oil and gas well drilling in the Allegheny National Forest.

U.S. District Judge Sean McLaughlin's ruling says Forest Service officials were wrong to ban drilling in April until an environmental assessment could be done. The Forest Service agreed to the ban to settle litigation brought by environmentalists.

Meanwhile, oil and gas companies who stood to lose millions of dollars under the ban have asked the judge to make his December order permanent.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100218/NEWS/2180318/-1/NEWS>

Bonacic, NYC in face-off over gas-drilling ban

Senator says city should buy landowners' drilling rights

By Steve Israel

Times Herald-Record

Posted: February 18, 2010 - 2:00 AM

If New York City wants to ban gas drilling in its vast watershed — and it does — it should pay those who want to lease their land to gas companies, says state Sen. John Bonacic, R-C-Mount Hope.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61H4DC20100218?feedType=RSS&feedName=GCA-GreenBusiness>

Thu Feb 18, 2010 6:30pm EST

House committee probes natgas drilling practice

Ayesha Rascoe

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Lawmakers on Thursday announced an investigation of a drilling method that has allowed companies to tap abundant supplies of natural gas in shale beds but has also generated complaints about polluted drinking water.

<http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=12826>

Effects of Texas Drilling

Mayor Calvin Tillman says town officials in DISH, TX, had big ideas about what natural gas wells like these could bring to the area.

"Jobs, prosperity -- most of the things the folks in the Marcellus Shale are probably thinking about right now," said Tillman.

Tillman says drilling into the Bartlett Shale has cost the town as much as it's gained.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1822285420100218>

Thu Feb 18, 2010 5:29pm EST

Shale gas gambit pits NY neighbor against neighbor

- * Farmers in New York state fear invasion of drilling rigs
- * State considers whether to allow shale gas drilling

By Edith Honan

HANCOCK, New York, Feb 18 (Reuters) - The race to exploit America's promising reserves of shale gas has triggered a clash between landowners in New York state, pitting those eager to earn royalties from drilling against farmers who fear gas companies will be able to drill without their consent.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1820457720100218>

FACTBOX-Shale gas stirs energy hopes, environment concerns

Feb 18 (Reuters) - The boom in shale natural gas drilling has raised hopes that the United States will be able to rely on the cleaner-burning fuel to meet future energy needs, but concerns about its impact on water quality could slow the industry's ability to tap this resource.

For stories on how an effective moratorium on gas drilling is affecting the state of New York, double-click on [ID:nN18222854] and [ID:nN17118922].

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704269004575073763606365280.html?mod=WSJ_business_whatsNews

FEBRUARY 18, 2010, 6:20 P.M. ET

Congress Investigates Controversial Drilling Technique

By BEN CASSELMAN

Concerns about potential drinking-water contamination are prompting Congress to investigate hydraulic fracturing, a controversial drilling technique that has helped boost U.S. natural-gas production.

Reps. Henry Waxman (D., Calif.) and Edward Markey (D., Mass.) on Thursday sent letters to eight companies that conduct fracturing operations on behalf of gas producers. The letters requested information on the chemicals used in the process, in which millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are injected into the ground in order to crack open gas-bearing rocks, allowing the gas to flow to the surface.