

BUTLER COUNTY UPDATE

- **Rapid Increase in Gas Well Construction** - Since 2007 over 200 Marcellus Shale unconventional gas wells have been drilled in Butler County with additional permits issued regularly. If this pace continues, the prediction of 4,000 wells in Butler County will occur sooner than we imagined, greatly increasing air pollution levels and potential well water contamination.
- **Forward, Jackson and Butler Townships** - The construction of gas processing plants and compression stations throughout the county indicate that this is a fertile area for the extraction and processing of natural gas. All this contributes to higher air pollution levels and industrialization of our neighborhoods.
- **Connoquenessing Township** - Residents whose water wells have become contaminated after the gas drilling began are now relying on water banks for their drinking water. Some are paying the additional expense for water buffaloes (estimates \$7,000/year for a family of four) to use the water for laundry, bathing and cooking. Some residents living close to the gas wells are experiencing headaches, skin rashes and respiratory problems.

Good News: Marcellus Outreach Butler (MOB) is a group of concerned citizens from Butler County, who have organized to educate people about the potential dangers of Marcellus Shale gas drilling and about how to protect their water, air, health and quality of life in their community. Monthly meetings are held for the purpose of education and action. Check out our website for meetings or email us at mpro113@gmail.com.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Educate yourself** about the side of gas drilling that you do not hear in the promotional advertising and public programs sponsored by the gas industry.
- **Get involved** in Marcellus Outreach Butler to learn what people in communities in Butler County are doing in response to the industrialization of this county.
- **Talk to your neighbors** about your concerns and what people need to do to protect themselves and the value of their property.
- **If there is gas drilling** in your vicinity, make sure you get an independent water testing company (DEP approved) to test your well water (see website for more details). Notify us if you experience any health effects.
- **To learn more about how to protect you and your family** from potential hazards of Marcellus Shale gas drilling, contact us:

www.MarcellusOutreachButler.org,
<http://www.youtube.com/user/MarcellusOutreachBTL>,
email: mpro113@gmail.com
or on [Facebook](#).



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DOES MARCELLUS SHALE DRILLING PUT YOU AT RISK?



Portersville, PA - Gas well flaring, Cheeseman property.



Gas well on Marburger Farm, Evans City

Do you want this view from your window?

GAS COMPANIES' MISLEADING ADS

- Gas drilling is not about American energy independence. Gas companies are selling local leases to foreign investors and laying pipelines to coastal ports to sell gas on the international market. It is about profit for investors, not energy independence.
- Many PA residents trust research studies that come from universities that support drilling for gas in Marcellus Shale. Many do not know that some of these studies have been funded by gas companies.
- The Department of Labor and Industry released figures that indicated that the original claim of new job opportunities in the gas industry was greatly exaggerated.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marcellus Shale, located 1 mile under the surface, contains natural gas. A process called high volume, slickwater hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is used to release the gas and bring it to the surface. Unlike the conventional wells drilled in PA for decades, this process involves horizontal drilling up to a mile from the vertical well and the injection of 3-5 million gallons of water mixed with sand and toxic chemicals into the shale. High pressure blows this mixture into the shale, fracturing the rock to release the gas. In addition to gas, toxic brine, radioactive isotopes, and poisonous vapors flow up to the surface of the drilled gas well.

HEALTH RISKS TO YOUR FAMILY

- Gas wells have exploded causing evacuations and the release of toxic chemicals into the air and ground water.
- The salt brine from drilling contains toxic metals, carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and radioactive elements that can cause serious health problems.
- Release of noxious chemicals into the air and water have had damaging health effects including asthma, skin disorders, cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological disorders.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to these toxic substances because their immune systems are still developing.

IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

- Gas drilling creates large industrial sites within our neighborhoods, exposing us to toxic substances, water contamination and air pollution.
- A huge increase in truck traffic (over 1,000 truck trips per well) with high levels of air and noise pollution will have a negative impact on farming, hunting and the quality of life in your township.
- Residents near active drilling sites complain about the constant “clanging” noise made during the drilling process and the intense lights that are associated with this 24 hours/7 days a week operation.

WELL WATER CONTAMINATION RISK

- In Dimock, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection found improper gas well casings to blame in contamination of 19 water wells.
- A recent scientific study investigated by highly distinguished Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, engineering professor at Cornell University and researcher in the gas and oil industry for over 25 years, noted that there was a 7% immediate failure rate of the protective gas well casings, causing toxic substances to migrate and contaminate well water.
- Within the past two years, over 20 homes near drilling operations in Connoquenessing Township, Butler Co. have reported dramatic changes in their well water. These changes included elevated levels of arsenic, toluene, and chloromethane, rendering their water supply unusable for basic needs such as cooking, bathing, drinking and other daily uses.
- The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is under scrutiny for not disclosing 16 of 24 toxins that could be present in water tests from private wells near drilling operations. Test results presented to homeowners did not indicate levels of those potentially harmful toxins. Families were informed their water was safe based on the incomplete disclosed test results.

HOME & PROPERTY VALUE LOSS

- Federal mortgage lenders and an increasing number of banks consider gas-leased properties an unacceptable risk for mortgage loans.
- In areas like Bradford County, PA that have experienced a lot of drilling, property values have decreased up to 80%, if the property has been drilled or is adjacent to a drilling operation.