



People concerned about the effects of fracking on the health and safety of our communities

For Immediate Release:

February 27, 2012

EMERGENCY WATER AID AND DEMAND THAT REX ENERGY CONTINUE CLEAN, DRINKABLE WATER TO CONNOQUENESSING FAMILIES

BUTLER COUNTY, PA – A rally will be held to call attention to the plight of families in the Woodlands neighborhood of Connoquenessing Township whose water has been contaminated since natural gas drilling began and are to lose the water delivered by Rex Energy after February 29. On Thursday, March 1st at 3:15 pm, rally attendees will assemble at the Butler Farmer’s Market in the city of Butler, PA, located on West Diamond and Chestnut Streets between Race and Shore Streets (Note: this is not the Butler Farm Market on Rt. 68). From there, they will march 0.2 miles to Rex Energy's Butler office.

Citizens will voice their outrage that Rex Energy is failing to live up to its corporate responsibilities. Rex Energy has been delivering water to a least eleven families—31 individuals and their animals—after they reported changes in their water quality, color, smell, and/or quantity since their rural neighborhood became the site of drilling pads, fracking, containment ponds, compression stations, a gas treatment plant, and ongoing pipeline construction. Rex Energy will stop the delivery of safe and clean water on this date. Citizens assembled at the rally will demand that Rex act responsibly and reinstate deliveries of replacement water so that they may safely drink, cook, wash, and bathe in their own homes.

Those attending the rally will also urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use their authority to protect the rights guaranteed to citizens under the Pennsylvania Constitution to clean water, air, and a healthy environment. To date, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has failed to ensure these rights. The EPA must step in to mandate clean and safe water be provided to replace the water that has been contaminated since gas drilling commenced in the area.

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Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."