



Pipeline construction in Eldred Township, Lycoming County - Photo credit: Barb Jarmoska

Greetings!

This week, New York State officially banned high-volume hydraulic fracturing by issuing a formal [Findings Statement](#), thus completing the state's seven-year review of the industrial process commonly referred to as fracking.

"After years of exhaustive research and examination of the science and facts, prohibiting high-volume hydraulic fracturing is the only reasonable alternative," said New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens in a statement. "High-volume hydraulic fracturing poses significant adverse impacts to land, air, water, natural resources and potential significant public health impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated. This decision is consistent with DEC's mission to conserve, improve and protect our state's natural resources, and to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state."

The Findings Statement concludes that "there are no feasible or prudent alternatives that adequately avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts and address risks to public health from this activity."

Although New Yorkers can celebrate the fact that they won't be subjected to the levels of hazardous materials and health risks that those of us in the PA Marcellus are exposed to, New York policy continues to support the ever-increasing number of wells drilled in PA, as our neighbors to the north issue permits for pipelines, consumptive water withdrawals, fracking waste treatment operations, and gas-fired power plants.

And what happens when the gas companies get their way and the feds give

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In Other News

The Top Five Facts About Drilling and Taxes in Pennsylvania

Gov. Wolf has proposed a severance tax on the extraction of natural gas in Pennsylvania to provide funding for public schools. Lawmakers in both parties have introduced severance tax bills every year since 2009, and every year the gas

their stamp of approval to overseas exports of PA gas? Our feature story addresses that issue and answers that question.

In the end, who pays the price of PA's extraction colony status? You do- and so will your children and grandchildren and generations to come.

For example, drainage from thousands of abandoned coal mines has contaminated more than 3,000 miles of streams and ground water in PA. The state loses an estimated \$67 million annually in sport fishing revenue and cost for restoring these damaged waterways is estimated by the USGS at up to \$15 billion in taxpayer dollars.

Currently, DEP has issued over 31,000 permits to drill oil and gas wells in PA (16,451 unconventional and 14,721 horizontal wells). What burdens will our rush to drill place on the backs of future generations? Dory Hippauf explores that question in the second article, below.

There's also lots more news in the sidebar, be sure to check it out. RDA invites you to join us at the next Working Group meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 15th at 5:30 PM at the Herdic House on 4th Street in Williamsport.

In Solidarity,

Barb Jarmoska
RDA Board of Directors

Visit our website at: www.rdapa.org

Energy Independence or Profitable Export?

by John Trallo, RDA member

You've seen the TV commercials and heard the sound bite ad nauseam: "Natural gas offers American energy independence." It stands to reason, therefore, that a resource developed to offer energy independence to the United States ought to stay within U.S. borders. So why is the industry pushing so hard to liquefy America's natural gas and ship it overseas? Increased profits, of course. Right now, consumers in China, Japan and elsewhere are paying 400% - 500% more for natural gas than Americans. The industry wants to keep investors happy by making the most of the higher global prices, and par for the course, the industry is talking out of both sides of its money-hungry mouth.

On one hand, the oil and gas industry states that domestic natural gas prices in parts of New England have risen because of "stranded resources" due to the lack of pipeline infrastructure. Kim Watson, Kinder-Morgan's eastern pipeline group president, went as far as to say: "New England has paid more than \$7 billion in the last 2 years than what it would have with access to supplies in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio." Yet opponents have been saying that pipelines shouldn't be built because consumers would be paying too much. The industry also claims, "America's newfound abundance of natural gas is powering a remarkable manufacturing renaissance, which to date has generated more than \$110 billion of announced investment in over 120 different manufacturing projects, and is already responsible for an impressive 68,000 manufacturing jobs this year."

On the other hand, the oil and gas industry is pushing for more LNG exports to Free Trade Agreement countries (FTA) and non-FTA countries as well. [The push is enough to raise concerns among U.S. consumers and manufacturers.](#)

drillers have successfully fought the tax, spending \$46.8 million on lobbying since 2007.

Much of the industry's lobbying money has gone into manufacturing a narrative, built on a foundation of myths, about the economic benefits of drilling and the fragility of the industry.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Changing Military Energy One Solar Cell at a Time

Sustainable energy is more than just a buzzword for the U.S. Army. After the president challenged the military to "go green," the Department of Defense (DoD)-the largest government consumer of energy in the United States- has committed to producing three gigawatts of renewable energy by 2025 in order to meet the requirements of a larger DoD mandate which highlights that at least 25 percent of any DoD facility energy consumption must come from renewable energy sources.

The domestic use of renewable energy not only reduces the cost, it also increases the security of military energy by allowing for self-sufficiency.

[Click here to see more.](#)

Wind and Solar Will Soon Become The 'Least-Cost Option'

How long will it take for wind and solar energy projects to be able to compete heads up with fossil fuel? And will that be enough to halt global warming?

In the absence of an energy crystal ball analyzing industry trends, the latest research and CEO guidance are what investors must rely upon for the answers.

On June 23rd, GreenTechMedia Senior Editor Stephen Lacey published, "Wind and Solar Will Soon Become the 'Least-Cost Option' Almost Universally."

[The extensive list of LNG export applications to FTA and non-FTA countries approved and pending approval by the Department of Energy \(DOE\) can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the agency that oversees and permits interstate pipelines. (NOTE: FERC receives zero dollars in congressional funding and 100% of its funding from the fossil fuel industry.) With FERC approval comes the power of eminent domain, defined as a authorization "for the government or the condemning authority, called the condemner, to conduct a compulsory sale of property for the common welfare, such as health or safety. Just compensation is required, in order to ease the financial burden incurred by the property owner for the benefit of the public." This definition begs the question: How is exporting a natural resource to foreign countries a "benefit of the public"? In reality, it isn't.

To understand the push to export, all one has to do is understand that [all corporations have a fiduciary responsibility to their investors to reap the highest possible return on their investment.](#)

Corporations accomplish this is by minimizing operating costs via deregulation and a host of cost and corner-cutting measures, and by selling the product/service in the highest paying market. Currently, the overseas price for natural gas is four to five times that of the current U.S. domestic price.

The law of supply and demand

Economics 101 tells us that as supplies decrease, consumer prices rise. Since overseas exports increase demand, which puts more pressure on supply, exports will cause the price of gas in the U.S. to rise. As long as domestic prices are below overseas prices, oil and gas corporations are feverishly trying to sell as much product overseas as possible, thereby forcing domestic prices to rise toward overseas prices.

So, on one hand you have the industry claiming that domestic prices are "too high due to lack of infrastructure," and on the other hand, you have the same industry calling for more export facilities because the domestic price is too low and investors are not getting the highest return on their investment.

In commenting on the New York state fracking ban vs. gas drilling in PA, Governor Tom Wolf said he wanted to "have his cake and eat it too". The oil and gas industry is doing the same thing, but neither Wolf nor the industry can have it both ways. What'll it be, U.S. energy independence or exports for profit?

Pennsylvania Solution: U-Pay

by Dory Hippauf - June 29, 2015

Pennsylvania has been through a few booms and busts in the past, from a lumber boom, an oil boom, to the reign of "king" coal and the legacy has been the same.

When the busts came and corporations left town Pennsylvanians were tapped to pay for restoring the forests, locating and plugging abandoned fossil fuel wells and cleaning up acid mine drainage problems. When the [Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant](#) had a partial meltdown in March 28, 1979, the cleanup cost of approximately \$1-billion was passed to investors and consumers to save [Metropolitan Edison, Jersey Central Power & Light and Pennsylvania Electric](#) from bankruptcy.

According to Lacey, "The first phase of growth for renewable electricity was driven by policy. The next phase will be driven by straight economics."

[Click here to read more.](#)

Pennsylvania Records Shed Light on Shale- Related Health Concerns

The Pennsylvania Department of Health kept a log of 86 reports of health complaints related to natural gas development between 2011 and 2015 that reveals both the array of concerns reported by residents and doctors and the limits of the agency's efforts to investigate potential health effects that may be associated with the industry.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Oklahoma Court Rules Homeowners Can Sue Oil Drillers Over Quakes

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that homeowners who have sustained injuries or property damage from rampant earthquakes they say are caused by oil and gas operations can sue for damages in state trial courts, rejecting efforts by the industry to block such lawsuits from being decided by juries and judges.

The case has been closely watched both by the energy industry and by fracking opponents across the United States, and the 7-to-0 ruling opens the door for homeowners in a state racked by earthquakes to pursue oil and gas companies for temblor-related damage.

[Click here to see more.](#)

Frontier Fracking Showdown Pits Feds Against Western Boom States

High noon for the Obama administration's stricter rules for fracking on public lands has arrived on the Wyoming

For about the past 10 years, Pennsylvania is in the throes of a natural gas boom. Our government officials, like in the past, remain blinded by the promise of untold wealth and are quick to parrot the industry-scripted talking points. It's short-term gain in exchange for long-term pain for Pennsylvanians.

Pipeline Boom

In the rush to drill and frack, the industries ignored the need for an infrastructure to transport the product to market and are now playing catch-up with massive build-out of pipelines.

Communities that were unaffected by drilling are now targets for pipelines and related midstream facilities. Many opposition grassroots groups have emerged to stop the industrialization of their communities.

Gov. Wolf's solution to the growing opposition is not to listen to concerns, but rather to form yet another committee called the [Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force](#) (PITF). It is being touted as a collaborative process to achieve a world-class pipeline infrastructure system. Seats at the PITF table have yet to be filled. Given who is sitting at the other two tables, there is little reason to believe the people of Pennsylvania will have a real seat.

Alan M. Seltzer and John F. Povilaitis, attorneys in the Energy Law Practice of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, published an op-ed in PennLive on June 24, 2015, entitled "[With pipeline task force - a Pa. solution to a Pa. problem.](#)"

They point to Three Mile Island as an example of the "Pennsylvania Solution" where investors and customers paid for the cleanup.

Export Boom

The rush to export began when the Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) market and the "much too gassy" shale oil quests failed to live up to the hype.

You may remember early in the natural gas boom, the PR campaigns were all about American Natural Gas for Americans and energy independence with a lot of flag waving.

Current industry PR campaigns tout "abundant and inexpensive" supplies of natural gas.

If American natural gas is supposed to be for Americans and make America energy independent, why are we exporting it? The answer is simple; fossil fuel corporations will make more profits selling the natural gas to Europe and Asia than they will selling to Americans. (See: [America for S\(h\)ale](#))



Pictured is a transport vessel for exporting natural gas overseas

range.

Four western states at the center of the shale oil boom took part in a courtroom showdown over who should have the last word on rules for extracting oil and natural gas from federal property within their borders. [Click here to read more about the case.](#)

IPAA and Western Energy Alliance were joined in court by the states of North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah to argue for a preliminary injunction of BLM's hydraulic fracking rule. The judge ordered a stay of the rule, originally intended to be in effect, until he can review the full administrative record, which means likely the rule will not go into effect, if at all, until mid-August.

[Click here to read more on the outcome](#)

What's Killing the Babies of Vernal, Utah?

Donna Young, a fifty-something, heart-faced woman with a story-time lilt of a voice, cuts a curious figure for a pariah. She's the mother of six, a grandmother of 14 and an object of reverence among the women she's helped, many of whom she's guided through three and four home births with blissfully short labors and zero pain meds. And the sin for which she's been punished with death threats and attacks on her reputation? Two years ago, she stumbled onto the truth that an alarming number of babies were dying in Vernal - at least 10 in 2013 alone, what seemed to her a shockingly high infant mortality rate for such a small town.

That summer, she raised her hand and put the obvious question to Joe Shaffer, director of the TriCounty Health Department: Why are so many of our babies dying?

[Click here to read more.](#)

Report: Over 40,000 Gallons of Fracking Fluid Spilled Into Texas Neighborhood Due To Drilling Co. Mishandling

Natural gas is a finite source; sooner or later the industry will pack its carpet bags and leave. Pennsylvania will once again be left with a mess to clean up. The Pennsylvania Solution is to enact U-PAY. U-Pay for cleanup. U-Pay for health costs. U-Pay for restoration. U-Pay for well plugging. U-Pay and pay and pay for generations.

Just a portion of this article has been reprinted here. [Click here to read the full article in its entirety.](#)

Lycoming County Gas Drilling Permits and Violations - June, 2015

The following gas drilling permits were issued last month:

Cascade Township

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-12 to ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC for [site MAC A 201H](#) in Cascade Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-09 to ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC for [site GRAM CHAPMAN A 201H](#) in Cascade Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-23 to ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC for [site LITTLE FAWN HC A 201H](#) in Cascade Twp, Lycoming county

Gamble Township

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 1H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 2H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming County

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 3H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 4H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 5H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-11 to ATLAS RESOURCES LLC for [site LOGUE B 6H](#) in Gamble Twp, Lycoming county

Hepburn Township

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-19 to INFLECTION ENERGY (PA) LLC for [site HENSLER 1](#) in Hepburn Twp, Lycoming county

Cogan House Township

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-19 to ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC for [site KURT H HAUFLE A-2H](#) in Cogan House Twp, Lycoming county

Gas permit issued on 2015-06-19 to ANADARKO E&P ONSHORE LLC for [site KURT H HAUFLE A-4H](#) in Cogan House Twp, Lycoming county

The following permit violations were issued last month:

Two months ago, 100 homes in Arlington had to be evacuated as fracking fluid spilled out of a drilling site onto the city streets.

Now we know officially what happened, why it happened, and why Arlington officials are blaming the drilling company for "unacceptable behavior."

A series of video recordings obtained by News 8 shows the scene behind the walls of a fracking site 600 feet from a cluster of homes in the state's seventh largest city. In the incident, 42,800 gallons of fracking fluid - boiling up from thousands of feet underground - spewed into the streets and into Arlington storm sewers and streams.

Four attempts and 24 hours later, experts were finally able to plug the natural gas well.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Protect Our Public Lands from Fracking

Representative Mark Pocan (WI) recently introduced a bill to ban fracking on all public lands - the strongest piece of federal legislation against fracking to date. Fracking on public lands means clear-cutting forests for well pads, air pollution, potential water contamination and thousands of trucks carrying water, toxic chemicals and waste.

Our US parks and national forests are irreplaceable. Not only do they provide beautiful recreational areas and essential wildlife habitat, they also protect critical drinking water sources.

[Click here to sign the Food and Water Watch petition asking your Representative to support a ban on fracking on public lands.](#) They'll deliver your signature and additional message directly to your elected official.

Join RDA!

Sign Up/Make a Donation

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events,

[PA Permit Violation Issued to Swm Production Co Llc in Jackson Twp, Lycoming County](#) Environmental Health & Safety violation issued on 2015-06-22 to Swm Production Co Llc in Jackson Twp, Lycoming county. CSL 402(b) - POTENTIAL POLLUTION - Conducting an activity regulated by a permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of The Clean Streams Law to prevent the potential of pollution to waters of the Commonwealth without a permit or contrary to a permit issued under that authority by the Department.

[PA Permit Violation Issued to Range Resources Appalachia Llc in Lewis Twp, Lycoming County](#) Environmental Health & Safety violation issued on 2015-06-19 to Range Resources Appalachia Llc in Lewis Twp, Lycoming county. CSL 402(b) - POTENTIAL POLLUTION - Conducting an activity regulated by a permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of The Clean Streams Law to prevent the potential of pollution to waters of the Commonwealth without a permit or contrary to a permit issued under that authority by the Department.

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publicity, research and other projects.

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Please note: The RDA newsletter includes reporting on a variety of events and activities, which do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of the organization. RDA practices only non-violent action in voicing the organization's beliefs and concerns.

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