



Smoke rising from the Luke Fiddler (Coal Run) underground mine fire. Photo by www.daladophotography.com

Greetings!

Our feature story revisits plans for the "Atlantic Sunrise" pipeline and sheds some light on the absurd possibility it will cross through the land of old burning coal mines. Not to worry though, it is not burning where they plan to bury the pipeline... YET! Read further for recently released information on PA frackwater ponds, now numbering more than 500 statewide.

"In other news" brings new plans for tracking fracking, and sadly finds the town of Denton, TX being sued by the State and the Energy Industry over their recent fracking ban. On a more positive note, the Sierra Club has compiled 5 simple things Governor Wolf can do for Pennsylvania's environment. There are also a couple new "Action Points" presented in the sidebar.

Thank you for caring & staying informed. Grab a blanket & stay warm!

Sincerely,

Brooke Woodside
Managing Editor
www.rdapa.org

Mine Fires and Gas Lines

"Excerpted from <http://coalcorncountry.com/mine-fires-gas-lines/>"

11/14/14 - When Pete Tipka first learned a company wanted to run a natural gas pipeline through his property in Bear Gap, PA, he was into it.

"When the pipeline letter came in the mail, I knew nothing about it. I thought--oh, I'll make some money... then I did some research."

It wasn't easy. He couldn't get much out of the government. "People were apprehensive about giving information. They clam up and don't say nothing." The

In This Issue

[Mine Fires and Gas Lines](#)
[500+ PA Frack Ponds](#)
[Events/Action Points](#)
[In Other News](#)
[Join RDA!](#)
[Newsletter Archive](#)

Events/ Action Points

[Hepburn Township Meeting](#)
[Un-Frack the Clean Power Plan](#)
[FracTracker iPhone App](#)
[Marcellus Documentary Project](#)
[NPR Petition](#)
[Frack Free Parks Campaign](#)
[PA Moratorium Petition](#)
[Pinkwashing Petition](#)

In Other News

Tracking Frackers from the Sky

Citizen scientists eyeing PA's natural gas drillers in aerial images may help determine if there is a link between fracking and certain illnesses.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Texas Oil Regulator Says it Will Not Honor Town's Vote to Ban Fracking

On November 4th, the town of Denton, Texas, voted by a wide margin to ban fracking within the city limits. Two days later, the chairwoman of Texas'

company sent a [landman](#), but, according to Pete, "he was a typical land person. An employee of a huge corporation, there to make landowners happy."

The "Atlantic Sunrise" pipeline would run through 10 PA Counties, connecting to other pipelines and moving natural gas for [export](#). It's a proposal from Williams Partners, a Tulsa-based Fortune 200 Company.

As of November 2014, the pipeline is in a "public input" stage, before the federal government approves or denies the project. They will also apply for eminent domain, which would give them power to take the land if landowners won't sign.

Pete started to worry about this splitting his land in half. Land that his family has owned for over 175 years. He went to public meetings held by the company, but his concerns were quickly dismissed.

His bigger concern, though, is the mountain to the south of his land, where is great grandpappy used to mill timbers for the mines.

MINE FIRES



Smoke rising from the Luke Fiddler (Coal Run) underground mine fire.
Photo by www.daladophotography.com

The abandoned coal lands near Shamokin look scraggly and unnatural. There's mounds, ditches and barren patches all over. Coal and other rock is littered everywhere. They are the scars of mining, above and below ground, over many years.

Those lands were home to the [Glen Burn Colliery](#), which ran for 130+ years. It was once the second largest [anthracite](#) coal mine in the world. The waste produced by the mine - rock and coal dust - now sits as the world's largest man-made mountain. There are three active fires inside the old tunnels.

The most famous place like this is [Centralia](#) - the town-on-fire, where the coal under town has been burning since 1962. There's been books and documentaries about Centralia, but there are more than [30 other](#) mine fires in PA that most people don't know about. Like the fires where the Glen Burn Colliery used

to be.

Would you run a pipeline through Centralia? No way. But the pipeline is set to run right through the area of the Glen Burn fires.

Here's what the [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#) said about the fire in their [December 2013 newsletter](#):

The Glen Burn Mine Fire has started wildfires for as long as locals in Northumberland County can remember. A part of the Glen Burn Fire called the Hickory Corner Fire which started in 1975 has been giving VFDs and DCNR problems during dry conditions over the past few years. The Spring of 2013 was no exception when the mine fire started a wildfire April 9th around 2400 hours. While doing the investigation in daylight it became apparent that we should not be fighting fire in this area due to numerous hazards, especially between dusk and dawn.

The government doesn't really know the extent of the fires. The last time they tried to check was 1987, when they put in vent pipes to monitor it.

oil and gas regulator said she would not honor the ban.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

The Energy industry, Texas Sue Denton Over Fracking Ban

Less than 24 hours after Denton voters approved a ban on hydraulic fracturing, the Texas Oil and Gas Association and the state's General Land Office filed lawsuits to stop the city's effort to prohibit the controversial drilling method.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

5 Simple Things that Governor Tom Wolf Can Do for PA's Environment

In the last four years, Governor Corbett and the Pennsylvania House and Senate have made repeated attacks on environmental protection and sought to maximize the profits of the gas, oil and coal industries at the expense of Pennsylvania's health & safety.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Hepburn Twp Meeting

Saturday, December 13, 2014 - 8 am

Hepburn Twp Firehall (Rte 973)

Hepburn Twp Supervisors
-Conditional Use Hearing-

Inflexion Energy has filed a conditional use application for the Hannan Wellsite in Hepburn Township.

Please feel free to contact us at the following phone # or email address for more information:

888-332-1244

responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com

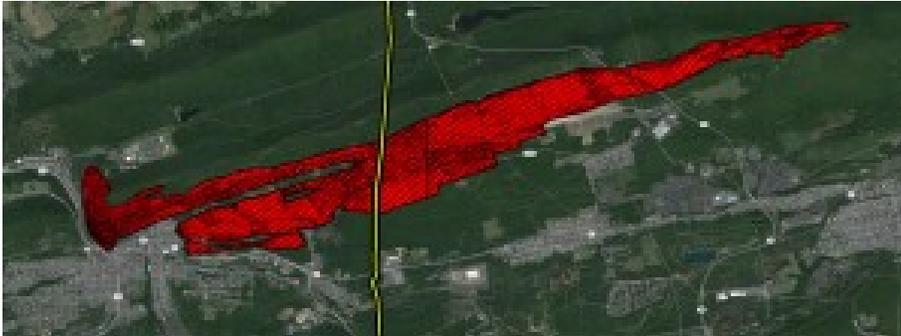
Un-Frack the Clean Power Plan

Deadline - Monday, December 1st

The President's clean power plan is a good idea, but it's hiding a dirty secret. The rules currently favor natural gas over renewables, and thereby encourage fracking. If these rules aren't fixed, they could encourage dozens of its power plants to switch to gas, shackling Americans to this toxic

The pipeline isn't going directly over a fire. It's going half a mile from the last known location of 2 of them. It does run inside the natural limits where the fire could spread.

Fire or not, the old tunnels run under the whole mountain, and sometimes collapse. That causes surface cave-ins called [subsidence](#). Williams' has said, "the pipeline will be designed to maximize its intrinsic ability to span mine subsidence features." As in, they expect that if the land falls away, the pipeline will not move. If you walk around the area, though, you can see subsidence holes anywhere from 10 to 100 feet deep. [Roads](#) and [homes](#) are often destroyed.



The pipeline path (yellow), crossing the Glen Burn Mine Fire's "natural limits" (red)
Source: Williams, DEP

Leaking pipelines can also be destructive. Last year, only five miles away, a [leaking Sunoco gas pipeline](#) destroyed 350 acres of land and groundwater. Williams themselves have a [long history of leaks and cover-up attempts](#).

If the pipeline runs through the old Glen Burn, there's a real chance of two environmental disasters colliding.

PIPELINE RESISTANCE

Because of all these reasons, now Pete's fighting the pipeline.

"If they wanna come through here for \$50,000, they'll have to run me over with a bulldozer," said Pete.

[Speaking up](#) at local meetings, he's convinced the township supervisors. They [voted 5-0 to oppose the pipeline](#).

Pete's township isn't the only one opposing it. [Martic Township](#) is against it. Over half the registered voters in [Conestoga Township](#) have signed a petition. [Schuylkill County farmers](#) are fighting it. [Pine Grove Borough](#) is considering it. Though it only passes nearby, [Lancaster City](#) and [Millersville Borough](#) passed resolutions against it.



200 person sit-in at Williams open house in Lancaster.

If you live along the pipeline route and want to know more about what's happening in your area, contact Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Shale Gas Organizer with the [Clean Air Council](#), for info. (215)567-4004 ext 115, or email skl@cleanair.org.

Source: <http://coalscorncountry.com/mine-fires-gas-lines/>

practice for decades to come.

Sign here to join Naomi Klein, Bill McKibben, Sandra Steingraber and others in calling on the EPA and President Obama to strengthen these rules so we can move to a truly clean energy future. But don't delay: we only have a few weeks to make sure your official comment gets to the EPA before the December 1st deadline.

[Click here for more details.](#)

FracTracker iPhone App

FracTracker Alliance announces the release of their free iPhone app - designed to collect and share experiences related to oil and gas drilling across the United States. The app allows people to submit oil & gas photos or reports. Users can view a map of wells drilled near them as well as user-submitted data ((map above).

[Click here for more details.](#)

"Marcellus Shale Documentary Project"

September 23 - December 14

The Palmer Museum of Art, State College

The "Marcellus Shale Documentary Project" features photographic images that tell the personal stories of Pennsylvanians affected by the Marcellus Shale gas industry. By creating a visual document of the environmental, social and economic impact of the drilling, the work aims to engage communities in the current Marcellus Shale debate while providing important historical images for the future. In capturing images of the people and places most affected by gas drilling, photographers Noah Addis, Nina Berman, Brian Cohen, Scott Goldsmith, Lynn Johnson and Martha Rial examine both the positive and negative results of the recent boom in the gas industry and how the environment and the communities that live with the resources are being shaped.

[Click here to view the Marcellus Shale Gallery Conversation Schedule for December.](#)

[Click here for more details on the entire exhibition.](#)

PA Frack Ponds Number More Than 500!

NPR Petition

by Susan Phillips, Reporter, StateImpact Pennsylvania

11/11/14 - In 2005, Pennsylvania had 11 frack water pits. Just eight years later, aerial maps show that number has jumped to 529. It's unclear how many of these sites store fresh water used for fracking, and how many store the toxic wastewater that results from oil and gas drilling operations. The Department of Environmental Protection could not provide the data to public health researchers working with Geisinger on an NIH funded health impact study. So the researchers turned to the nonprofit data sleuths from [SkyTruth, who have documented](#) the impoundments with the help of USDA aerial imagery and citizen scientists from around the world.

[Smithsonian.org recently reported](#) on how the project was initiated by public health researchers from Johns Hopkins.



Frackwater pond, Bradford County - Photo credit: Barb Jarmoska

Brian Schwartz, an environmental epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and his colleagues have teamed up with Geisinger Health System, a health services organization in Pennsylvania, to analyze the digital medical records of more than 400,000 patients in the state in order to assess the impacts of fracking on neonatal and respiratory health.

While the scientists will track where these people live, says Schwartz, state regulators cannot tell them where the active well pads and waste pits are located. Officials at Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) say that they have simply never compiled a comprehensive list.

A spokesman for DEP [told the Observer-Reporter](#) that the department can't produce a list of impoundments that include smaller wastewater storage sites because they have a different classification. The DEP sent the reporter to another nonprofit that tries to fill the state's data and information gap - [FracTracker](#). But FracTracker says the data they get from DEP on the location of frack ponds is "woefully incomplete."

"We are big fans of the SkyTruth dataset here at FracTracker, but it is a shame that it is needed," said Matt Kelso, manager of data and technology at FracTracker Alliance. "We wish that the PA DEP would publish better data about this aspect of the oil and gas extraction business."

Think About It

We Most Americans consider NPR an independent media organization, so it might surprise you that one of its biggest corporate sponsors is the American Natural Gas Alliance, a front group that exists only to promote some of the worst energy polluters in America.

The ANGA has been an NPR corporate sponsor for months, using its airtime to promote the misleading 'think about it' campaign that is in fact a promotion for the dangerous and destructive drilling process known as fracking.

NPR's financial dependence on the fracking industry could be fouling its news coverage, just like fracking fouls up our air, water and climate. Fracking puts America on a path toward a bleak energy future, with polluted land, flammable tap water and earthquakes.

Meanwhile, clean, green energy sources like wind and solar can provide 99 percent of our electric, transportation and manufacturing power needs. No fracking required. Even better every time we choose renewable energy over oil, coal and gas, we reduce emissions, lower the cost of energy and create jobs.

When trusted news outlets like NPR take money from ANGA and repeat their deceptive marketing claptrap - on OUR airwaves - we have to question their objectivity. Sign up here to tell NPR that when it comes to fracking, don't even think about it.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Frack Free Parks

The Campaign Continues

It's not too late to participate in the "Frack Free Parks" campaign initiated by the Save the Loysock Coalition. Take a "selfie" in the woods with [THIS SIGN](#) and email it to frackfreeparks@gmail.com so they can upload it to the tumblr site. Then feel free to share it all over your other social media.



#frackfreeparks

[Click here for more information](#)

Since state environmental regulators have no reliable knowledge of where these sites are located, volunteers from across the globe studied the aerial images from 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2013. The accuracy of the data was carefully vetted by SkyTruth's methodology, which included training on how to distinguish a frack pond from a duck pond. But the organization has not yet figured out how to distinguish the toxic from the non-toxic fresh water holding ponds.

"It is an important distinction that we're looking into," wrote SkyTruth's David Manthos in an email, "but not one we were ready to make yet." Manthos continued:

"Between the backlog of reporting, and these smaller impoundments that also hold toxic chemicals but which DEP classifies differently, the location of these features is effectively a mystery to the general public and researchers who are trying to measure the potential health impacts of [those] living near drilling sites and drilling-waste impoundments.

[Skytruth researchers](#) also documented the increase in the size of these impoundments over the last eight years.

From 2010 to 2013 the median area of drilling impoundments more than tripled, and the average area (which also includes small fluid reserve pits located right on the wellpad) more than doubled. As of 2013, the total impoundment surface area measures nearly four million square meters, scattered across the Commonwealth. (New York's [Central Park](#) measures 3.4 million square meters.)

Many of these impoundments are reclaimed after a period of time. For example, the 2010 maps showed 581 frack water storage facilities, while in 2013, Skytruth documented 529. The data is now searchable [through an interactive map](#) on the Skytruth website. The project was conceived to help Hopkins researchers link possible health impacts to the wastewater ponds, which contain toxic chemicals that can emit dangerous air pollutants. The Department of Environmental Protection has also documented leaks from these sites. In October, [the DEP announced it was seeking to fine EQT corporation a record \\$4.5 million dollars](#) for a leaking impoundment. The Attorney General has also filed criminal charges against the driller. In September, [DEP handed Range Resources](#) a \$4.15 million fine for violations at six wastewater impoundments in Washington County.

Centralized open storage pits containing gas drilling waste water have to be double-lined in Pennsylvania, and include a leak-detection system. The smaller, on-site ponds do not have to be double-lined. The industry standard advocated by the [Center for Sustainable Shale Development](#), whose members include the recently sanctioned shale driller EQT, says hydrocarbons should be removed from the wastewater before storage.

PA Moratorium Petition

Request a Moratorium on Further Leasing of our State Park and Forest Land

Our state forests are rare places that provide respite and recreation for our citizens. The proposed lift on the moratorium of gas leasing will lead to further drilling that will jeopardize fragile ecosystems. Our state forests and parks should be set apart, protected and held in trust for the future.

We need your help to stop additional gas leasing of state park and forest land. We urge you to please take action by sending a message to your legislators so the General Assembly will not open the door to additional leasing.

[Click here to take action!](#)

Pinkwashing Spotlight



Susan G. Komen & fracking giant Baker Hughes have taken pinkwashing to a new low - they're teaming up to distribute 1,000 pink drill bits. Baker Hughes' fracking chemicals increase our risk of breast cancer while Komen raises millions of dollars to try to cure it. This pinkwashing is indefensible.

[Take Action: tell Komen to stop fracking with our health.](#)

Join RDA!

Sign Up/Make a Donation

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events, publicity, research, and other projects.

It costs nothing to sign up for our e-newsletter or become a member of our organization, but tax-free donations are accepted & greatly appreciated.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, RDA relies on donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA



Frackwater Pond, Bradford County - Photo Credit: Barb Jarmoska

Source:

<https://statemimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2014/11/11/pennsylvania-s-frack-ponds-now-number-more-than-500/>

ATTENTION - Website skills needed:

RDA is seeking someone with web developing/editing skills to assist with our website @ www.rdapa.org. Please feel free to [contact us](#) for more information. Thanks!

[Back to Top](#)

to continue its valuable education and advocacy outreach in 2014, please consider a tax-free contribution to our efforts.

You can send a donation to the address listed at the bottom of this email, or [click here to download our current membership form](#) to fill out and send in along with your donation.

Membership levels:

- Adventurer.....\$10
- Explorer.....\$20
- Woodlander.....\$50
- Guardian.....\$100
- Naturalist.....\$500
- Preservationist.....\$1,000

www.RDAPA.org

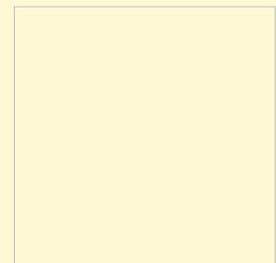
Past Newsletters

Click here to access our newsletter archive.

Join Our Mailing List

RDA Newsletter

- Brooke Woodside, RDA Working Group, Managing Editor*
- Barb Jarmoska, Treasurer - RDA Board of Directors, Editor*
- Ralph Kisberg, RDA Working Group, Contributing Editor*
- Ted Stroter, RDA Working Group, Contributing Editor*
- Jim Slotterback, President - RDA Board of Directors*
- Jenni Slotterback, Secretary - RDA Board of Directors*
- Mark Szybist - RDA Board of Directors*
- Roscoe McCloskey - RDA Board of Directors*
- Robbie Cross - RDA Board of Directors*
- Dianne Peeling - RDA Board of Directors*

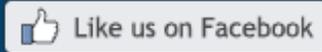


This biweekly e-newsletter is written and designed by the RDA consultants and Board of Directors and sent to RDA members/subscribers. Every effort is made to assure complete accuracy in each issue. This publication and the information contained herein is copyrighted by RDA and may not be reproduced without permission. All rights reserved. Readers are invited to forward this newsletter in its entirety to broaden the scope of its outreach. There is a forward link below. Readers are also invited to submit articles to be considered for publication in a future issue.

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.

Phone: 888.332.1244 (toll free)

Please mail donations to:
RDA, PO Box 502, Williamsport, PA 17703



Copyright © 2014. All Rights Reserved.