



## Greetings!

It took a long time for the wheels of justice to turn, but as our feature article shows, EQT is finally facing charges for a Tioga County incident [RDA covered in our e-newsletter back in June of 2012](#). I'd like to take this moment to acknowledge and commend our core RDA members who did a lot of work on getting this incident out on the forefront. If it wasn't for the RDA newsletter, this would never have come to the attention of the Environmental Integrity Project, who published a report which spurred the Attorney General to take an interest and file criminal charges against EQT. I believe the term "better late than never" definitely applies in this case. Read on to learn more about EQT's documented pollution from a "freshwater impoundment," like those we warned of in the last issue.

This stuff is really happening, and there is "No Time for Denial," as Ted mentions in his climate change article. The emissions from the drilling process are a serious matter to be taken into consideration when weighing the positives/negatives of the industry.

A handful of Lycoming County residents are catching wind of some disturbing development plans for their communities and neighborhoods. In response, RDA is hosting an informational discussion regarding municipal zoning, legal & quality of life issues as they pertain to the industry. Now is the time to be proactive & get the proper framework into place. Please refer to the big blue announcement below & mark your calendar to attend this important informational discussion/planning session.

This week's issue is also inundated with other news, events and action points. Be sure to check them out & take part in those that interest you.

Thank you for caring, and staying informed.

Sincerely,

Brooke Woodside  
Managing Editor  
[www.rdaPA.org](http://www.rdaPA.org)

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## In Other News

**DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo Resigns amid Lewd Email Scandal**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Chris Abruzzo has resigned his position, according to a statement issued by Governor Tom Corbett. The resignation is effective immediately. It comes amidst a scandal involving several top Corbett officials exchanging lewd emails.

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

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# EQT Faces \$4.5 Million Penalty for Major 2012 Pollution Incident in Tioga County

The PA attorney general has charged EQT Production Co. with polluting and disturbing waterways in connection with a Phoenix Resources gas well site in Duncan Township, Tioga County.

According to an affidavit filed by special Agent Donald A. Hentz Jr., the violations occurred between April 29, 2012 and May 31, 2012.

The state Fish and Boat Commission found that EQT had allowed drilling production fluid, or "flowback" from an impoundment at the well site to enter three waterways, including an unnamed tributary to Tioga County's Rock Run, which is designated as a high quality cold water fishery.

According to the affidavit, the well site contained a lined, 6 million-gallon fresh water impoundment. Seepage was discovered in June 2012 and appeared to be coming from about 100 holes in the liner of the impoundment, court records state.



The picture above shows a flowback water impoundment.

Court records also indicate that an estimated 300 to 500 gallons of flowback had spilled onto the surface of the ground at Phoenix Resources Pad 5 site on May 8, 2012.

Even after evacuation, the water continued to show pollution, according to documents.

Court records note that state agencies conducting routine inspections observed multiple species of stressed and/or dead vegetation at the site.

Acting DEP Secretary, Dana Aunkst said, "EQT fails to recognize the ongoing environmental harm from the significant amount of waste released by its leaking six million gallon impoundment. This action was necessary because the company has not been cooperative during our investigation. The department does not tolerate this unacceptable attitude toward compliance and proper protection of Pennsylvania's environment."

[Click here to read more from DEP on this matter.](#)

## Trans Energy Admits Clean Water Act Violations; Incidents Will Cost Millions

Less than a month after federal regulators levied a \$3 million fine against Trans Energy Inc. for illegally dumping materials into streams and wetlands in West Virginia, the company pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court on Wednesday to three counts of violating the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The West Virginia-based Marcellus Shale pure-play company admitted that it dumped pollutants into waterways in Marshall County. It agreed to a plea agreement calling for a \$600,000 fine, at \$200,000 for each conviction, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia, which issued a press release after the deal was reached.

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

## Lycoming County Frackdown

**Saturday, October 11  
12:15 pm**

### Indian Park, Montoursville, PA

On October 11, communities across the world are coming together for a global planning session to call for a ban on fracking, a dangerous method of drilling for natural gas that puts our air, water, climate and communities at risk.

Natural gas drilling is seen as the future of Lycoming County as it is in much of Pennsylvania, but our home needs added protection. Hopefully, by bringing like-minded individuals together, we can generate some momentum for this project.

We will be meeting in the back of the park, past the baseball fields & near the pavilion and the wooden bridge to the bike path. We will have a sign.

[Click here for more details.](#)

## The Science of Shale Gas/Oil: The Latest Evidence on Leaky Wells, Emissions, and Implications for Policy @ Cornell University

**Thursday, October 16  
7:30 pm**

Dr. Anthony Ingraffea will present

A preliminary hearing will be held on Oct. 21 in District Judge Rob Repard's Wellsboro courtroom.

[Click here to view the complaint.](#)

[Click here to view the associated exhibits filed with the board.](#)

As we continue to read about spills, accidents, and cover-ups involving gas production, processing, and transport - it is imperative that we do all we can to protect our communities and our most sensitive ecological treasures.

Get involved, Join RDA today, and help us "Keep It Wild."

## No Time for Denial

by Ted Stroter, RDA Chemical Advisor

As a scientist/engineer, I strive to look all sides of an issue. When it comes to unconventional gas drilling, industry supporters have called me an "environmental extremist" for pointing out the negative impacts. On the other side of this issue, I have been referred to as a "gas industry apologist" for pointing out some of the positives of gas extraction.

However, when it comes to climate change, the science clearly points to downsides that are so severe that there is no room for debate. Those who deny the reality of climate change or argue that the science is not definitive are so lacking in qualifications and/or have such obvious ties to the fossil fuel industry that their opinions are rendered baseless.

[I invite you to click here to see the organizations endorsing climate change.](#)

A global system that is overpopulated, overdeveloped and over commercialized has exceeded the ability of the planet to handle the pollution spewed into the atmosphere, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels.

For those doubters, please look at the pictures of two of the bigger polluters besides the US (click on the country to view): [China](#) and [India](#).

This article shows increased carbon emissions in 2013 for the three biggest emitters of greenhouse gas: China, the US and India:  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/09/21/ap-china-us-india-push-world-carbon-emissions-up/16009637/>

While global warming, or climate change, is a very complicated issue, over 95% of qualified scientists agree that it is an urgent issue caused by human activity.

It was very heartwarming to see the recent climate marches held by concerned citizens around the world, including many RDA members.  
[Click here to see RDA's article on the NYC march.](#)

The challenges for addressing this issue are enormous and must be tackled by all countries: <http://www.vox.com/2014/9/22/6805513/un-climate-talks-in-seven-charts>

We have a choice. We can believe politicians and business leaders whose backgrounds generally are in business, economics, or law and who, in many cases, have filled their campaign coffers with money from the fossil fuel industry. Or, we can believe the vast majority of scientists who

some myths and realities concerning large-scale development of the unconventional natural gas/oil resource in shale deposits. On a local scale, these concern geological aspects of the plays, and the resulting development and use of directional drilling, high-volume, slickwater, hydraulic fracturing, multi-well clustered pad arrangements, and the impacts of these technologies on waste production and disposal, and possible contamination of water supplies. On a global scale, we will also explore the cumulative impact of unconventional gas development on greenhouse gas loading of the atmosphere.

[Click here for more details.](#)

### Political Forum and Debate

**Wednesday, October 29  
6 pm**

**Kristen Hayes vs. Garth Everett**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event.

Understand the issues facing rural PA and the differences between two candidates vying to represent the 84th legislative district.

The forum will be held at:

The Community Theater League  
100 W. 3rd Street

- Explore the issues
- Know the candidate's positions
- Become an educated voter

(parking available in garage across the street)

### "Marcellus Shale Documentary Project" @ the Palmer Museum of Art in State College

**September 23 - December 14**

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

proclaim that climate change is here and demands immediate action.

I believe it is imperative that we examine the platform of those running for office to be sure climate change is included among their proposed action steps. In addition, we must all continue to put pressure on elected officials, demanding a paradigm shift in political will.

It's the least we can do for future generations.

To see what our politicians do to avoid the realities of climate change, read this: <http://www.alleghefront.org/story/corbett-officials-ordered-dcnr-drop-climate-references-website>

## 'Moment of Truth' on Emissions

October 6, 2014 - Joe Nocera, Op-Ed Columnist, NY Times

In March, the Obama administration issued a white paper as part of its [Climate Action Plan](#) entitled "[Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions](#)." A big part of the strategy was built around cutting down on the methane emissions that result from oil and gas production, particularly the hydraulic fracturing method of extracting natural gas from the ground - a.k.a., fracking. In the white paper, the administration said that the Environmental Protection Agency would decide by the fall how best to go about it.

Fall is now here. More to the point, the word is that the E.P.A. and the White House are in the process of deciding what tack to take in reducing methane emissions (though any announcement will probably have to wait until after the November elections). If the administration takes the right course, methane emissions could likely be reduced by 40 percent or 50 percent over the next five years - enough to make natural gas a genuinely cleaner alternative to coal and a critical component in reducing greenhouse gasses. But if it doesn't - if the government decides to back away from regulation, or allow industry to reduce emissions voluntarily - then the promise of natural gas as a cleaner fuel could well go unrealized.

"It's the moment of truth," says Fred Krupp, the president of the Environmental Defense Fund and a strong proponent of regulating emissions.

Methane emissions, [as I've written before](#), are fracking's Achilles' heel. Methane is the primary ingredient in natural gas, and, when it is burned, it is considerably less dirty than coal. The problem is that [methane too often leaks at various points in the production and distribution process](#). And when methane gets into the atmosphere, it is 84 to 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year span. (After two decades, its potency is greatly reduced.) Not surprisingly, anti-fracking environmentalists have put methane leakage near the top of the list of their reasons that fracking should be banned altogether.

That, to be blunt, is never going to happen. The natural gas boom that has resulted from fracking has become hugely important to the American economy, providing jobs and a plentiful supply of a low-cost fuel. President Obama himself is on record as being pro-natural gas.

It also turns out that lowering methane emissions does not require enormously expensive new technology. It can be done with technology that already exists and at fairly minimal cost. [I've seen estimates that it would add a penny to the current price of natural gas](#). What's more, a 50 percent reduction in methane emissions is the equivalent to closing 90 coal-fired power plants, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

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 October.](#)

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

### Stop Fracking in PA Campout

October 24-26

#### Salt Springs State Park

Come join Energy Justice Shale Initiative, Sierra Club members, students, and other anti-fracking activists in a festive outing at Salt Springs State Park.

Attendees will tour local gas extraction sites, hike through the Old Growth Hemlock Groves of Salt Springs State Park, and strategize on how they can prevent fracking from harming Pennsylvania communities and public lands.

[Click here for more details.](#)

### A Message To Our Next Governor - Take a Strong Stand on Methane

#### Take a zero tolerance pledge on methane leaks from the shale gas industry

Methane leakage from shale gas infrastructure endangers public health and safety, and accelerates climate change. Leaking methane from shale gas infrastructure also includes significant amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contributes to ground-level ozone pollution and exposes residents to cancer-causing pollutants.

Colorado has already adopted standards demanding that the oil and gas industry find and fix leaks and capture 95% of leaked methane and VOCs. While shale gas burns cleaner than coal, shale infrastructure can leak as much as 17% of its product, undercutting any climate change benefit.

Some of Pennsylvania's elected officials have made a career out of denying the environmental impacts of shale gas development. A strong stance on methane leakage is an absolute necessity in a state where the gas industry remains largely unchecked.

Please ask each candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania to stop methane leakage.

In February, Colorado became the first state in the nation to impose regulations on the natural gas industry aimed at reducing methane emissions. The regulations included using valves that don't allow methane to leak, regular checks and repairs of leaks and a variety of other rules. Four of the largest natural gas developers in the state supported the regulations - in part because they saw the public relations value in it, but also because the regulations Colorado imposed made sense. "What we were looking for were rules that wouldn't just add paperwork or documentation but would make a quantifiable difference," said Doug Hock, a spokesman for the Encana Corporation, one of the companies that supported the regulations. He noted that the company was already using, in Wyoming, a special infrared camera that detects methane leaks - which is now required by Colorado - and "we could see the benefit of the rules." He added, "It really puts a very disciplined process around regular maintenance."

The problem, however, is that while fracking is currently regulated by the states, not every state is rushing to follow Colorado's lead. What's more, there are an enormous number of companies in the fracking business - literally thousands. Fracking practically screams out for federal regulation.

Which brings me back to the White House. President Obama has said that he wants to put in place policies that will lower greenhouse gasses by 17 percent by the year 2020. To that end, in 2012, he set fuel mileage standards that will increase fuel economy to more than 50 miles per gallon by 2025. More recently, [the E.P.A. announced rules](#) that would reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants by 30 percent by the year 2030. The environmentalists I spoke with say that these moves, while significant, won't get the president - or the nation - to that 17 percent goal. But adding methane emission regulation could well get us over the goal line.

Is industry pushing back? Of course. But oil and gas companies should be welcoming sensible regulation. There is so much mistrust of fracking in the country that rules that made the process demonstrably safer could well have the effect of ameliorating some of that mistrust.

Smart regulation to reduce methane emissions could help industry - and help the planet as well.

[A version of this op-ed appears in print on October 7, 2014, on page A29 of the New York edition with the headline: 'Moment of Truth' on Emissions.](#)

## Informational Meeting for Lycoming County Residents to be Held at the Pajama Factory

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2014 @ 6:30 pm**

**The meeting will be held in the Pajama Factory's  
concert venue on the first floor next to the  
courtyard.**

[Click here to take a stand & send a message to the candidates.](#)

### Frack Free Parks

#### The Campaign Continues

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



[Click here for more information](#)

### 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!](#)

### 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

RDA will be holding a casual public discussion with Lycoming County residents regarding municipal zoning rights and protection of our communities and special places. There are plans in the making for numerous townships in our area that you might like to be aware of. Now is the time to pay attention, get prepared, and take the proper precautions. Come give your "two cents" & hear what others have to say about the issues at hand and what we can do about them.

[Please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns.](#)

donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA 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](http://www.RDAPA.org)

## THIS IS PINKWASHING



Pink drill bits? What the frack?!

Chemicals used in fracking cause cancer.

## STOP THE DISTRACTION

think before you pink

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.](#)

And here's another petition, this one for the EPA, in response to this absurd pinkwashing scheme:

Fracking pollutes our drinking water with cancer-causing chemicals. And then the fracking companies lie about it, and sponsor pink-painted drill bits for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

It would be funny, except that the EPA, who is supposed to stop and clean up this kind of pollution, has been covering up research that proves fracking pollutes ground water for over a year.

ENOUGH - [Sign on here and we'll deliver your message to the EPAs door as part of the Global Frackdown.](#)

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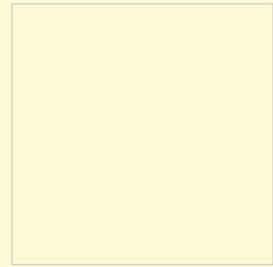
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Please note: The RDA newsletter includes reporting on a variety of events and activities, which do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of the organization. RDA practices only non-violent action in voicing the organization's beliefs and concerns.

Responsible Drilling Alliance | [responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com](mailto:responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com)  
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