



**EARTHWORKS**

# Earth Notes

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## Thank you for all you've done in 2013

Dear [[First\_Name]],

Thank you for all you made possible this year!

This Thanksgiving week, all of us at Earthworks feel gratitude towards all the activists, members and friends who have taken action to protect communities and the environment. We couldn't do what we do without all your support and we can't thank you enough!

Just this year your activism made headlines and politicians took notice.

From winning four hard fought elections in Colorado against mountains of oil and gas money to swaying public opinion on all of our issues through social media, you've had a huge impact this year, thank you!

From our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

Best wishes for the holiday season,  
All of us at Earthworks



## Fracking causes outbreaks of democracy across the US

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EcoCouture gives 5% of the profits from their entire eyewear collection to Earthworks. Use the code ACTION to get 10% off!

**Beautiful Greeting Card Helps Stop Fracking!**



A funny thing happened on the way to the shale revolution – an outbreak of democracy that is sending tremors through the oil and gas industry and its political backers.

Voters in three elections in three different cities (Boulder, Ft. Collins and Lafayette), located on the voter-rich Front Range of Colorado, followed the city of Longmont's lead and decisively passed bans or moratoria on fracking or drilling. A fourth election in Broomfield was too close to call and will have a recount soon.

Farther east, there was a further outbreak

of democracy in north central Ohio.

As a member of East Boulder County United summed it up, we are "not a community that welcomes the idea that the oil and gas industry has the final word on how we live."

These seemingly small democratic victories challenge the dominance of this industry to its core.

[Read the full story on [EARTHblog](#).]

## Fracking's big footprint: New report documents high levels of water & waste

From the very beginning of the shale gas and oil boom, water use and pollution rose to the top of key concerns. Maybe it's because it takes millions of gallons just to frack a well. Or the special exemptions industry enjoys from the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts. The era of climate change, when long droughts and intense floods highlight drilling's impact. And the tens of thousands of rivers and streams nationwide that are already impaired.

So it's no wonder that questions are being asked—by advocates, communities, researchers, and even industry analysts—about the "energy-water nexus." This week, we got some answers with the release of a new report by researchers at Downstream Strategies and San Jose State University. Developed in collaboration with Earthworks, the report provides the most comprehensive investigation to date of water used and waste generated by Marcellus Shale gas operations in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as where it all ends up.

[Read the report highlights on [EARTHblog](#) and download the full report [here](#).]

## GOP still doesn't have the votes to mine Oak Flat

On two separate occasions in one month, the House of Representatives unexpectedly scrapped a scheduled floor vote on HR 687, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This bill privatizes protected public lands, sacred to the Apache people, and turns them over to a foreign corporation coveting the copper beneath the surface.



This land exchange includes a sacred site called Apache Leap. According to legend, while fleeing



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Apache Leap. According to legend, while fleeing General Custer's cavalry, scores of Apache warriors found themselves surrounded on a cliff overlooking what is now the town of Superior, Arizona. Rather than face capture, the warriors chose to leap to their deaths. The obsidian rock along the face of the cliff represents the tears of the their widows.

This is the 12th time Congress has considered this bill. All the more embarrassing for House leadership responsible for counting votes. More importantly, each time a new version appears, the opposition grows especially among Native American tribes, local communities, and environmental groups who have demonstrated near universal opposition.



[Read about the previous 12 attempts to pass the bill [here](#) and more on Oak Flat [here](#)]

## Bad energy bills pass House



The House of Representatives passed three oil and gas development bills last week.

- HR 2728, the Promoting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act, prevents the Department of Interior's (DOI) hydraulic fracturing rule from going in to effect.
- HR 1965, the Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act, forces sales of the people's lands to the oil and gas industry while charging protesters \$5,000 for their input.
- HR 1900, the Natural Gas Permitting Reform Act, undercuts local authorities and fast tracks more miles of pipelines through America's parks, playgrounds, and backyards.

These bills would weaken protection of our federal public lands, put people's communities and public health at risk, and stymie scientific research meant to protect precious drinking water sources.

If these bills come up in the Senate we'll be counting on you again to let your Senators know we need to protect communities, not the oil and gas industry.

[Read more on [EARTHblog](#)]

## Correction: barging fracking waste not governed by RCRA



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#41290

Earthworks is proud to be a member of EarthShare and the Combined Federal Campaign!



In our recent e-mail alert asking you to write the Coast Guard to keep fracking waste off our rivers we mistakenly implied that this hazardous waste is governed by the federal hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

It isn't. Instead the Coast Guard is governed by the Hazardous Materials Transport Act, which does allow for fracking waste to be deemed "hazardous".

Which should make it all the easier for the Coast Guard to do the right thing. Barges spill. And the Ohio River provides drinking water to millions.

[TAKE ACTION: Tell the Coast Guard to keep fracking waste off our rivers!](#)

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## Romania votes 'no' on Rosia Montana open-pit mine

Good news: The Romanian parliament rejected the proposed Rosia Montana open-pit gold mine on Monday, after months of protests on the streets of Bucharest and around the world.

As we've blogged about before, this mine proposal epitomizes "dirty gold" for many reasons, including:



- Its location in the picturesque, Transylvanian Rosia Montana valley
- The staggering amount of cyanide it would use in what would be Europe's largest open-pit gold mine operation
- The fact that it would require an entire town to permanently abandon their homes to make way for the mine,
- And the strong local, national and global opposition it has stirred.

Though this "no" vote is good news, the struggle to block this proposed mine is not yet over. The Parliament will now draft new legislation to determine the project's fate. Meanwhile, the mining company, Gabriel Resources, is rattling its sabers and threatening action against Romania.

Still, the rejection of this huge proposed mine reflects a public tired of open-pit, irresponsible gold mining operations and their impacts on waterways, health and livelihoods.

[\[Read more about Rosia Montana here\]](#)

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## "Frack" for Shale Oil or Fight Climate Change: You Can't Do Both

Environmentalists and social justice advocates are rising up in record numbers to stop coal. At the same time, the twenty-first century clean energy revolution — like improved energy efficiency and solar, wind and water generating electricity and powering electric vehicles — is gathering pace. What lies in between? Can replacing coal with natural gas "bridge" the nation to clean energy?



Clean Energy.

New data says “no fracking way.” Join Dr. Anthony Ingraffea to discuss the threats posed by oil and gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing to our water, our air and the global climate.



**Wednesday December 11, 2013**  
**Doors open at 7, talk begins at 8**

**David Brower Center**  
**2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704**

Sponsored by: Earthworks; 350 .org; Californians Against Fracking, Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Environmental Health; Clean Water Action; David Brower Center; Environmental Working Group; Friends of the Earth; Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy, and the 11th Hour Project.

**Open to the public. Free of charge. [Click here to RSVP.](#)**

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