

THE NO FRACK ALMANAC

FREE
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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

We're citizens, not subjects.



Stories From Hell (aka Pennsylvania)

3 QUESTIONS ABOUT FRACKING

- 1 If fracking is essential to America's energy independence, why aren't the frackers required to sell their gas in this country?
- 2 If fracking is safe for the environment, why did it need exemptions from the Clean Air and Clean Water acts?
- 3 If fracking is safe for human health, why is it being banned in the New York City and Syracuse watersheds?

2 MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT FRACKING

- 4 If fracking hasn't been proven safe as of today, how could it have been proven safe in 2005, when it was exempted from major health and environmental laws?
- 5 Why would anyone exempt fracking from major health and environmental laws, if it wasn't proven safe?

Our Statement of Purpose... Many parts of the country have been opened up for natural gas extraction through a process of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," and New York may be next. Our area, the Finger Lakes, is also being targeted as a site for massive gas storage facilities. Many of us who live here think these industries are dangerous and will destroy our beloved countryside. We are trying to stop these projects, but it is an unequal struggle. The gas companies have spent literally hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and advertising to promote their plans. No one in the opposition has that kind of money, but we do have something the fracking companies don't have, and that's millions of people who love our area just the way it is. In The No Frack Almanac we will tell our side of the story, the side that's not advertised in 60-second commercials on TV. We hope we can tell you enough to make you want to find out more and, ultimately, to help keep our area, or any area, from being destroyed.

SOMETHING YOU CAN DO...

Write to the *No Frack Almanac* and tell us what you think the anti-fracking movement should do next (we make our own suggestion on page 12). We'll print as many answers as we can. Write to us at nofrackalmanac@yahoo.com or at the postal address on our masthead below. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Five Stories and a Trailer Park

We present here the stories of Pennsylvanians living with the consequences of fracking. Though we have seen polls that asked Pennsylvanians whether or not they supported fracking, we know of no poll that asked them if they felt harmed by it. So we don't think anyone really knows how many stories there are like these. What we do know is that they're not hard to find, and that there'll be more of them, in New York, if fracking comes to our state.

1 Gerri Kane worked for an oil drilling company in Texas and says that, "Time after time, areas where we had been, you could never live there anymore. To me, it was just devastating." So about ten years ago, she moved to Rushboro, Pennsylvania, thinking that this would be her "safe haven" from the industry. It didn't work out that way.

Several years ago, landmen started showing up, trying to get her to sign a lease. "They came almost every day," and some, she says, were "threatening. I was beside myself being threatened all the time." Her partner, Ken, who actually owns the property they share, never signed a lease, but many neighbors did.



According to Kane, when the pipe men showed up to lay pipe (she recalls their foreman as being "very nasty"), "I was told that our township had signed away our road rights... We were notified that we would have no mail service... Two of our neighbors had no roadway to their house... This went on for two and a half weeks."

Then there were problems with seismic testing that shook the ground until everything "broke loose" in their house. The foundation cracked and all of their water pipes became clogged. They wound up having "no indoor plumbing that winter," and using an outhouse on their property.

Kane, who had had previous bouts of illness, says she became "very ill after the seismic testing... I did end up in the hospital... I was told that I was raw hamburger meat from my throat all the way through my rectum. I was bleeding, throwing up. I was just shooting blood... I begged God every day to just let me die." Ken never experienced these symptoms, but Kane theorizes this was because he is on the road five days a week and only home on weekends. She eventually got better when, "We quit all water. I got a juicer and started juicing."

Kane says that she got no help from the DEP [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection]. "We were being told there are MBS's or MSBS's [in the water], and I ask what they are, and [I'm told] it's a component of the drilling process... and they're asking me how that got in our well. I don't know. [I said] 'If you can't tell me, how am I supposed to know?'"

Kane has also experienced difficulties when gas is flared off. "There is an explosion," she says, and that too makes "the ground shake." She's "put lips on the shelves in our house" because "all the antique bottles will dance. And after that, for days you have, I call it 'dusty water.' It smells."

After one such flare, their pool "looked like the Gulf oil spill. I'm wondering what is this stuff, so again I called the DEP. They're telling me it's our neighbor's wood burning fireplace or something. Now this is in the middle of summer... Everything was covered with this oil, and I was really afraid for my little bird, because he's loose in the house. I thought this might not be good for him, but nobody gave me an answer... I didn't know little birds could get diarrhea, and lose their feathers like that. He is now on bottled water and I have to bathe him in bottled water.

"After all that stuff started raining down on the house, the trees were loaded with cherries, but then everything started getting these black spots. [By the time] I took my bushel basket around back, I was so excited, woo-hoo cherries, but [there was] not a cherry left. Not a leaf on the tree... I've grown all this food, not just for us, but to give to low-income families... It was heartbreaking to have to tell people I was sorry this year when they would call... One girl said, 'You mean you're not going to share this year?' I said, 'Honey, it's poisoned. I don't know what's on it.

I can't give it to you and your children?... So I let it rot."

Life, Kane says, has completely changed. "I wouldn't go out to ride a horse now to save my life. I don't see anyone riding anymore. Those trucks are flying. You're not safe even on our little cow path road... Once, I was informed by one of the workers from one of the gas companies that if I step on leased land they could have me arrested... So I don't take walks anymore, cause I don't really know where I'm safe."

Because she has been outspoken, she has been subjected to a barrage of verbal abuse. She says that neighbors or gas workers have variously warned her, "fire is hot," called her "fucking crazy" and "wonder bitch," and told her, "We didn't ruin your water. It was ruined before we ever fucking got here."

"The sad thing is the nastiness of the workers. When they first came I defended them. They were here to support their families. But when you have men go up in front of you and they tell you "f" this and "f" that, and you have no rights? I live here. What right do they have to tell me to shut up or get out?"

"People who are very concerned have now become very quiet because we're afraid. It's almost like not living in America anymore... I've been telling people for five years, [when they ask,] 'Where do you live?' I say, 'The pit of hell.'"



The jar on the left contains Gerri's water without filtration. The one on the right contains Gerri's water after there has been a flare.



Gerri says these leaves shriveled after she sprayed tap water on them, and the plants did not bloom again.

AS WE WERE GOING TO PRESS, Gerri called in tears to say that EPA Region 3 had just declared her water to be unfit for human consumption. Gerri said, "We can't sell the house and we still have a \$1250 a month mortgage to pay. What are we going to do?"

AMAZING FACT

A new PA law says that doctors who find that a "trade secret" fracking chemical is poisoning people must keep the matter "confidential."

2 Carol French is a dairy farmer in Sheshequin Township, Pennsylvania. As a dairy farmer, she wants everyone to know that, even if fracking could make us no longer dependent on foreign oil, it will be no bargain if it destroys so much land and water as to make us “dependent on a foreign food source instead. That’s not worth it to me.”

She leased her land in 2006, but says, “I did not believe or understand the water contamination until I was at a neighbor’s house once, and I saw the water come out of his faucet like 2% milk with a splash of dry ice and [experienced] the headaches that it gave me. The biggest question I asked them was why didn’t our state do something about it three years prior... Why does it have to happen and continue to happen?”

The water issue became more personal when some of her cows developed a rash that resulted in “the skin literally lifting off the cow’s tails.” Since the state only tests for pus and bacteria, the milk is still going to market, and Carol acknowledges that her family kept on drinking it, even after they started having health problems. But, Carol says, they don’t have the option of quitting, because “Nobody wants to buy our cows.”

Carol developed a rash, unlike anything she had ever had before. “It kinds of bubbles up like a volcano, and then it has a crevice inside. And they itch... Everybody I’ve talked to, they [either] have these kinds of rashes or it’s like a chemical burn. That’s what’s on my chest is like a chemical burn.”

Worse still, Carol’s grown daughter got sick. “It hurts to watch your daughter go through this. She had a high fever for three days, and then she lost around ten pounds in seven days. She had diarrhea, and it turned into blood.” At the hospital, “they found large amounts of fluid floating in her lower abdomen. Her right ovary and her spleen and liver were enlarged.”

The hospital, however, was not able to come up with a diagnosis. “She left. She went to Tennessee looking for a home and a job, and in the nine days that she was gone, she started feeling better. By the time she was back home for two weeks, all of the symptoms came back. So I do believe in my heart that it is directly related to our water.”

No well was ever drilled on their property, and their lease expired on August 29, 2011. Mysteriously, though, their lease was somehow sold to Anadarko on October 17, 2011. They can’t figure out what happened, because, Carol says, “We’re having a hard time getting them to release the record.”



3 Carolyn Knapp is a farmer and a neighbor of Carol French. She says, “The first moment,” she got a bad feeling about fracking, “was when we went to some of the League of Women Voters meetings and actually witnessed some of the people there in Dimmock [where early reports of contamination surfaced], bringing in contaminated water, and legislators ignoring them, calling them liars...”



“Everybody keeps saying that the people who get this contaminated water are doing it because they’ve always had contaminated water, and they want the industry to pay for something that’s always been there. I don’t know who in their right mind would come forward and say, ‘My water is contaminated,’ just to get money, because who has money to fight this industry to begin with?”

“That’s ludicrous, but the second most important thing to me was the bullying, and the nature of how they conduct business. I saw them actually come to my door and make lies up... And then saying, ‘Oh, we’re going to sue you,’ or saying,

‘We’re going to come on your property whether you like it or not.’ Carol and I, being able to stand up to them, they never came through on any of those threats, but there are a lot of people who believe they will.

“Right about the same time Carol’s water went bad – we live uphill from them – my husband said he started tasting a difference in the water. Then he got a rash, full body rash. It started on his leg. Then for two months it went all up his body... The doctor couldn’t explain what it was. [It] cleared up for a little while, but now he still has a rash on his leg.”

4 Bill Pabst runs a rural auto repair and collision shop near Montrose, PA. He signed a lease, but doesn’t expect a well to be drilled on his property, because there are wells on his neighbor’s properties, and one of them will extend horizontally beneath his own. Since the drilling around him began, there has been a change in his water. His well had been fine since he purchased his property in 1996, but “this past year, 2011, we had some sulphur smell started. Then it looked like the water was getting a little cloudy.”



He sent his water off to be tested. “When it came back, they’re saying it had slight methane, a little bit of sulphur, which is obvious, and it’s some of the best water they’ve seen in the entire county. So I’ve got some of the best water in this entire county [but] it’s not as good as it was.”

Unfortunately, just like his water, the assessment of his water has become a bit cloudy. A second test didn’t “come up as good.” So far, he’s had four tests, though not all of the results are in. Two of them were paid for by the University of Rochester, which is making a study. Two of them he has paid for out of pocket, at around \$850 apiece.

He says he’s not necessarily against fracking, “if everything’s fine,” but he’s not sure it is. “At first, it seemed like a good thing, but then there’s all kinds of issues like roads... I’ve got a car coming in a week from now. She went off the road. The frack truck didn’t cause it... It’s just the roads, especially the dirt roads. You’ve got narrow roads [and] you don’t have the infrastructure for these big trucks, and it’s not just one truck you’re going by. It’s 25 trucks or whatever... I didn’t realize it was going to be this bad.”

Pabst says that, lately, he’s been seeing cars that have been in fracking-related accidents about once a month. One time, a frack truck flipped over and crushed a car, killing a friend of his daughter’s. “We went to the funeral,” he says. “That kind of hit home.”



continued on page 4

5 Matthew and Tammy Manning. Matthew is a carpenter who specializes in building staircases. Tammy Manning cleans houses. Toward the end of 2010, they paid \$110,000 for a new house near a trout stream (Matthew likes to fish), and, as Matthew puts it, “We’ve probably sunk another 15,000 into it. They are surrounded by drilling rigs, and on December 6, 2011, a neighbor came running to tell them that water was gushing out of their well, as if spraying from a geyser. No one around there had ever seen anything like it before. According to Matthew, the pressure builds up when the water hasn’t been used for four or five hours, and then erupts when they flush a toilet or turn the water on.

“They all say it’s Salt Springs migrating into our well,” Matthew explains, referring to a state park three miles away, where the salty spring water is known to bubble with methane. But Matthew rates that explanation, “not a chance,” and points out, “We’re not the only people who have water problems right now, and everybody’s problems started right around the same day.”

The DEP has tested their water and, according to Tammy, found their methane contamination to be “naturally occurring,” but she adds, “they didn’t test for fracking fluids [and] as far as I know, they didn’t do isotope testing,” which might have allowed them to match the methane in their well with the methane at Salt Springs or elsewhere.

They can’t use their stove. They can’t use their furnace (they got through the mild winter using space heaters) and they’ve been told not to shower in their water, partly because, Matthew says, “the

barium levels are too high.” They do it anyway. “We just make it as quick as possible,” Matthew explains. “You can’t take a long shower because the methane builds up in a closed space like that.”

“I like to have the heater going in the bathroom when I take a shower,” Tammy adds. “[But] we have to have the window open, the door open and a nice cross breeze going through.”

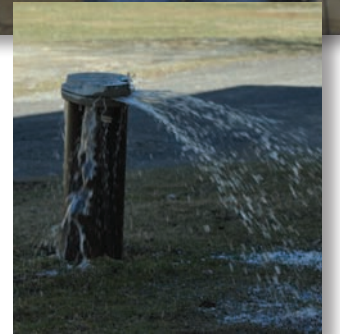
The Mannings are not rich, and their gas problems have cost them dearly. “We just bought this house,” Matthew says. “We’ve got fifteen years to pay on it yet. What do you do? The value of it is zero now. Who’s going to buy it with that water? You can’t sell it. You can’t rent it. Nothing.”

Like others who have spoken out about their gas-related problems, the Mannings have taken some abuse. “A lady just called us lunatics,” Matthew recounts. “I didn’t have this problem before. Why am I a lunatic because my well’s blowing up, and



it’s got so much methane, it’s a danger to burn my house up?”

Matthew, who will no longer fish in the nearby creek, recalls, “I had a feeling they were going to ruin things,” and now, when asked what he thinks of fracking, he just says, “It stinks... There’s quite a lot of people in this area that are talking about moving out of state and heading right for New York or someplace safer than this.”



ADDED BENEFIT A Trailer Park Paradise Lost



On February 18th, the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* ran an article entitled, “Planners approve 3 natural gas projects.” One of the three projects was the construction of a pumping station on a stretch of land, in Jersey Shore, PA, that borders the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The station will withdraw up to three million gallons of water a day from the river (raising environmental concerns) and deliver it to fracking operations. Presumably referencing remarks by an engineer with the project, the *Sun-Gazette* reported, “An added benefit is the removal of mobile homes from the property, which is located in the flood plain.” That was how the poor, elderly and disabled residents of the Riverdale Mobile Home Park found out they were going to be evicted.

A few days later, they got letters from Prudential Hodrick Realty that said, “The new owners [Aqua America] are prepared to make it worth your while to relocate quickly.” Residents were offered \$2500 toward moving expenses if they could be out by April 1st, which was barely more than a month away, and \$1500 if they dawdled until May 1st. The actual cost to move one of the trailers – if they can be moved at all – is in the six to ten thousand dollar range, and many of the residents say they simply can’t afford it. We went to the park to see for ourselves. The first person we met there was Kevin June.

Kevin, who told us that he is on disability and has lived in the park for six years, says that when he heard the news about the eviction, “God spoke to me that night... So I decided to take on this fight.” He says that around twenty of the original thirty-seven trailers cannot leave, for a variety of reasons. Many of them are decades old, with tin siding and tin roofs that are grandfathered in where they are, but would not be allowed somewhere else.

Many are in poor condition and are not worth moving. There are few vacancies in nearby mobile home parks, and, he says, “everybody that’s left are very, very low income... We don’t have the funds to move, so we’re staying right where we’re at... it’s gonna end up in a court of law.” With that, he took us on a tour of the park.

We saw the folk art left outside by a resident who wasn’t home.

And we ran into sisters Summer, April and Leticia, along with April’s daughter, Gina, and Summer’s son, Alexander.



Four “tin on tin” trailers in a row



Summer and Alexander live with Summer's boyfriend, an electrician, who hasn't made nearly as much money from the gas boom as they had hoped, because, she explained, the gas companies, "bring their own people."

April, Gina and Leticia live in another trailer, with April's husband, who, April says, "works for the gas industry." But that work is drying up, too, as the gas companies suddenly seem to be pulling out of the Williamsport area, at least temporarily, to pursue more lucrative gas plays closer to Pittsburgh.

"We just don't have the money [to move]," Summer says. And even if they had the money for the move, it would be pretty much impossible to find anything as inexpensive as living in the park, where lot rents are only \$200 a month, including sewage and water, with property taxes adding less than another three hundred dollars a year.

For the residents, the loss of the park is as much about community as it is about money. April, for example, did what she could to help out her neighbors. "Some of the elderly folks here, I mowed their yards, took 'em to the grocery stores, if they needed to, or doctor's appointments."

Summer says that life in the park was "wonderful. I didn't really have no problem with anybody. I mean of course, we was all family. You cook out, everybody comes over to eat, hang out, the kids are always at everybody else's house. You don't have to worry about the kids and that's one thing that I like about it here, I mean, I don't have to worry about my kids being outside and somebody just coming up and taking them, because there's always somebody watching here."

We thanked them, and, with Kevin still in the lead, walked to an open square in the center of the park.



This, Kevin says, is to be the actual site of the pump, which raises the question, if the area for the station is already empty, why does everyone have to move? "They're telling me that they only need them homes over there moved," Kevin explains, pointing across the square. "The only thing that you're going to see is the pump sticking out of the ground right there," he further explains, pointing to the center of the square. "Why can't they come up with a plan to take the ones over there, bring them over here into



Betty Wynne and their home.

an empty spot and leave half of this still a mobile home park? That's what we're trying to work on."

We continued on with our tour, stopping next at the trailer of Bill and Betty Wynne.

They have been married for fifty-four years and have lived in the trailer park for forty of them. Bill, who is 74, wasn't home -- he goes for dialysis or physical therapy five times a week - but Betty, 83, was in.

She says, "I enjoyed it here," but doesn't mince words about her current predicament. "Somebody comes in and says that we got to move, and you look at our age, and you know that you like your trailer, but you know that you can't move it really. It's hell."

Bill mostly worked as an auto mechanic, but also "helped build 80," until he suffered a heart attack "and the doctors didn't want him to work anymore." Even so, he volunteered for many years at Love Center, a facility run by American Rescue Workers. And, says Betty, I don't know anybody who goes to work on their trailers as much as he did," at one point putting on a big new roof. Unfortunately, that labor of love may now be coming back to haunt them, because their atypical roof is yet one more impediment to moving the trailer.

Betty's had her health troubles too. Twenty-nine years ago, she had a mastectomy for breast cancer, and she's had three recurrences since, including one she is watching now. And she worked hard from a young age. "I started to work when I was thirteen years old. I walked into a restaurant and asked if they had a job, and they asked me my age, and I said, 'I'm sixteen,' and I was only thirteen, and I worked there for a good many years." She later moved to a job assembling artificial Christmas trees. "And I worked down there until I got... to the point where I had sickness and they didn't think I'd be strong enough down there to do any lifting or anything, and then they retired me."

According to Betty, they "don't have anything but this trailer and what we get in a month" (from Social Security). "Till we get done with paying our bills, everything else is gone." Bill and Betty have neither the resources nor the physical ability to manage a move, but it is the people who "are a lot younger" about whom she says, "I feel so sorry for them... With us being sick on and off, there isn't a whole lot we can do for them, except talk to them and pray for them. I know I do say a lot of prayers."

We took our leave of Betty and walked back across the park, where we met Deb Eck.

Deb works as a retail manager and has lived in the park, with her twin 10-and-a-half-year-old daughters, for ten years. "I have metal roof, metal siding and I'm 76 foot long too. They won't take my trailer because of those three reasons."

"I had the girls' dad take them out a week or so ago and actually look at [another park], and the girls are like, 'No, we're not going there.' And I said, 'What's the matter with it?' [And they said,] 'Mom, it's a dump.'"

Kevin, who is standing nearby, fills in, "I'm an ex-firefighter, and my scanner is on 24/7, and weekly the cops are being called for everything from overdoses to domestic disturbances, everything you can imagine. So who in the world would want to have their ten-and-a-half-year old daughters in a home like that? ... In all the years I've been here, I've never seen a cop car in here."



Deb Eck

"Well, you just weren't looking," Deb cuts in, "because I've seen them," but she allows as to how they were only there to investigate accidents on the road outside. She says she does have a little bit of money she's "worked very hard to keep," but the cost of moving would "more than wipe me out. I don't have what it takes to move my trailer, and I don't have a place to put it anyway." Beyond that, the trailer park she's in now would be "impossible to replace."

"This is a community. These people all take care of each other. When I send my kids out to the bus in the morning, I know somebody's watching them from the time they leave my door... Where else are you going to find that?"

The previous owners of the property, who, by all accounts, were good landlords, have said they had to sell to the gas industry, because regulations on placing trailers in the flood plain had made it too difficult for new trailers to move in. But assuming this to be the case, the residents still wonder why, with so much gas money floating around, so little of it went to helping them.

Kevin sees the situation in historic terms. "Dirty money is putting all this pain on every resident of this park. Dirty money... When the government was trying to take all these Indian tribes and get them off their land. It's the exact same thing. It's not right... Well here we have our village, and now dirty money wants to take us all and throw us away."

In fairness, though it's true that the responsible authorities made their plans without caring what happened to the trailer park residents, they may have had a reason. Maybe they believed that getting rid of the Riverdale Mobile Home Park would be an "added benefit," because they knew that the Riverdale Mobile Home Park sits squarely on land with a history of breeding troublemakers. Just a short way up the Susquehanna is this historical marker:



A Way of Life

We were driving near Montrose, PA, when we passed a row of parked trucks owned by Rapid Hot Flow LLC, which says it is in business to “provide fracwater [sic] heating services to the Oil/Gas industry nationwide.” Fluid gushed from the back of one of the trucks. We swung around to get a picture, but in heavy fracking traffic, that took a while. By the time we got back, the stream had substantially subsided, and we were only able to get a shot of the last fluid coming from the truck.

We sent these photos to Rapid Hot Flow, and asked them what this fluid was and “why the public should or should not be concerned.” Though the company claims to have “built its success on the core values of Integrity, Service, Reliability and Safety,” it did not respond to our query.

Since Rapid Hot Flow’s trucks are specifically designed to pump frack fluid, we think there’s a chance that what we stumbled upon was the illegal purging of untreated frack fluid in a populated area, but we don’t really know. What we do know is that seeing potentially dangerous things for which no explanation is available has become a way of life in rural Pennsylvania.



A few chosen words...

“At this point, we’re all scratching our heads going, why did this happen?”

—Commissioner Cathy Foerster of the Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission, after a blowout at an exploratory rig this February released large quantities of gas and sent 42,000 gallons of drilling mud spilling into the Colville River Delta.

“[I]f you’re going to allow drilling, there are going to be problems...”

—Lois Epstein of the Wilderness Society in Anchorage, after the same blowout.

“US State Secretary Hillary Clinton lobbied for the development of shale gas in Bulgaria during a weekend visit, more than two weeks after the country’s Parliament passed a moratorium on an industry where US major Chevron has big stakes.”

—February 7, 2012 headline at euractiv.com

“Who are they, where do they come from, why do they embody this warped thought and mindset? I know because I live amongst them... [T]hey are mainly from the public sector and mostly are found in the urban centers... From the top, they are found in universities, the school systems, professional politicians, municipal and county employees, government agencies, hospitals. At the low end, they are the generations of welfare recipients... THEY PRODUCE NOTHING, they are takers not makers... And now, they have a new rallying cry, Anti Fracking!... Their motive is very simple, they want more subsidizing, more entitlements... They do not care about the environment...”

—Ron Eiselstein blogging on the pro-fracking site gomarcellusshale.com

“Living through a drilling and fracking operation in your backyard is a hell that I would wish on no one... We are now being gassed out like insects next to a bug bomb... This is an issue of basic human right. I am a human being. To knowingly and deliberately torture and poison thousands of people for corporate profit is criminal. It is terrorism, and it has to be stopped.”

—Jamie Frederic speaking at an anti-fracking rally this February in Kent, OH.

“We don’t put any chemicals down in the ground. We just use regular fresh water.”

—Drake Stevens of Cunningham Energy to Ohio landowner More Welch on the risks of leasing his land, recorded July 7, 2011.

“Just seven months after frackers began drilling gas wells near Whitely Creek, a small trout stocked stream, residents began noticing the bubbles of methane coming out of the river... you can actually set the stream on fire because of the gas.”

—Cleanwateraction.org website.

“Documentation of cases in six states strongly implicates exposure to gas drilling operations in serious health effects on humans, companion animals, livestock, horses, and wildlife. Although the lack of complete testing of water, air, soil and animal tissues hampers thorough analysis of the connection...”

—Michelle Bamberger and Robert E. Oswald, Impacts of Gas Drilling On Human And Animal Health,” New Solutions, Vol. 22(1) 51-77, 2012

“I have a problem that I have never had before. Like I said, I’ve lived in this house for thirteen going on fourteen years... I could drink my water. I can’t now. We need to have somebody who’s going to talk to us and try to do something for us, not tell us, ‘Oh, it’s geological,’ whatever. We don’t need that. We need somebody who’s going to help us. Somebody caused the problem. Somebody needs to fix it.”

—Unidentified citizen at a meeting in Franklin Township, PA

“Hundreds of miles of high-pressure pipelines already have been installed in the shale fields with no government safety checks - no construction standards, no inspections, and no monitoring.”

—From “Powerful Pipes, Weak Oversight,” Philadelphia Inquirer, December 10, 2011

“Last Thursday Carl Stiles, a gentle, soft-spoken and understated man who became an environmental refugee after drilling and fracking contaminated his water and his home in Sugar Run, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, took his own life. He was 46 years old... when I first heard the news, I called Judy Stiles, Carl’s widow, to see how she was doing and what I could do to help. She cried and said, ‘Carl was in so much pain. He had severe headaches, memory loss, and tremors; he was shaking. He went from medicine to medicine and nothing helped.’ Referring to the months she and Carl continued to drink their well water after it was contaminated, she burst out, ‘People call us stupid because we drank the water. But we didn’t get replacement water [from the gas company] until October 2010... You

still have to shower, wash dishes... You can’t live without water.”

—Iris Marie Bloom in her “Protecting Our Waters” blog, February 1, 2012

“At least two gas wells near a community that’s complained of sudden drinking water pollution developed casing problems during the drilling process, but neither Rex Energy Corp. nor state environmental regulators disclosed those problems during recent discussions about the contamination... [R]esidents and environmental groups said on Monday that they were distressed to learn of the casing problems. The state Department of Environmental Protection, they said, doesn’t seem to understand that the lack of full transparency fuels public mistrust.”

—Corning-Leader, February 27, 2012

“The formula for making Canada and the U.S. the ‘Saudi Arabia’ of the twenty-first century is grim but relatively simple: environmental protections will have to be eviscerated and those who stand in the way of intensified drilling, from landowners to local environmental protection groups, bulldozed out of the way. Put another way, North America will have to be Third-Worldified.”

—Michael T. Klare, author of “The Race for What’s Left: The Global Scramble for the World’s Last Resources.”

“About the dress rehearsal time, the network vice-presidents and one of the sponsors came to them. The sponsor was the American Gas Company, and they said, ‘We’ve got to cut the word ‘gas’ out of the show.’ So that instead of we took them to the ‘gas’ chambers we took them to the ‘bleep’ chambers.”

—Television producer Robert Berger on the making of the 1959 “Playhouse 90” production of “Judgment At Nuremberg.”

“By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies responsible for overseeing the safe and responsible development of unconventional domestic natural gas resources and associated infrastructure and to help reduce our dependence on oil, it is hereby ordered... There is established an Interagency Working Group to Support Safe and Responsible Development of Unconventional Domestic Natural Gas Resources...”

—President Obama, executive order issued April 13, 2012

The Fracker Family Closet

One of the most astounding aspects of the debate about fracking is how the gas companies have been able to portray themselves as our saviors, righteously advocating for jobs, independence, prosperity, progress and even patriotism. It's not astounding that they would present themselves this way. People selling things often put themselves in the best possible (or even impossible) light. What's astounding is how little exception has been taken to this posturing.

With *amazingly little investigation*, we here at *The No Frack Almanac*, have uncovered much about these companies that contradicts their carefully cultivated images, and we're sure there's a lot more we still don't know. We present here a brief look at a few skeletons in the fracker family closet.

ANADARKO

Anadarko, America's third largest fracking company*, was a 25% partner in the BP Deepwater Horizon well that blew out in the Gulf of Mexico. In February of this year, a Federal judge rejected Anadarko's claims that others were to blame, and held the company liable for costs and penalties associated with the spill. Anadarko may also face billions of dollars in liabilities from litigation brought by Tronox, a former spinoff, that claims Anadarko should be held accountable for some 2800 polluted sites. In 2009, Anadarko and two other companies paid \$1.05 million in penalties and agreed to spend \$8 million for remediation related to violations of the Clean Water Act. In 2007, Anadarko was fined \$157,500 by the EPA for destroying wetlands in Wyoming.



BP

Though final responsibility has yet to be adjudicated for the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout, we know it was BP, America's fifth largest fracking company*, that filed a safety plan for its Gulf of Mexico operations, detailing the measures it would take to protect local walrus and seals. And we know it was BP that told the public only 5000 barrels a day was leaking from the Deepwater Horizon well, when its own engineer was saying 15,000 (and the real figure was much higher still). Investigative journalist Greg Palast has published evidence that BP, with the connivance of Chevron and Exxon, concealed a similar blowout two years before, knowledge of which might have prevented the Gulf disaster and saved lives. In 2007, the company paid the Justice Department \$373 million to settle charges pertaining to a fatal Texas refinery explosion, manipulation of the propane market for the purpose of price gouging, and a massive Alaska oil spill, for which it pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Clean Water Act.

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY

In April of this year, a blowout at a Chesapeake rig in Wyoming forced more than sixty families to evacuate. In February of this year, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) fined Chesapeake, America's second largest gas company*, \$565,000 for failing to protect streams and wetlands as required by law. In May of 2011, the DEP fined Chesapeake over \$1 million for

contaminating water in Bradford County. In March of 2010, Chesapeake was fined \$20,000 for withdrawing more water from Bradford and Sullivan Counties, PA, public water supplies than their permits allowed. In 2009, Chesapeake was fined \$15,557 for spilling hydrochloric acid in Bradford County, PA. Also in 2009, Chesapeake was fined \$22,000 each for the deaths of 22 cattle near a gas-drilling site in Louisiana.

CHEVRON

Chevron, the second largest oil company in the United States, is also America's ninth largest natural gas exploration company*. Native peoples in Ecuador allege that, over the course of two decades, Texaco, now part of Chevron, spilled more than 17 billion gallons of oil and dumped more than 18 billion gallons of toxic drilling waste, contaminating more than 1700 square miles of pristine Amazonian rain forest and causing, among other things, a cancer rate seven times higher than the national average.

In January of this year, an Ecuadoran court ordered Chevron to pay a fine of \$18 billion, the largest such penalty ever assessed, but the case is still in a tangled litigation limbo.

Chevron has repeatedly been accused of environmental crimes and human rights abuses, including murder, in Nigeria. In March of this year, following a spill, Brazil suspended all of Chevron's drilling activities, barred it from new oil fields, fined it \$30 million, prepared a legal action and ordered 17 executives not to leave the country without judicial approval.

DEVON ENERGY**

In March, Devon, America's fourth largest fracking company*, paid a \$3.5 million fine to the U.S. government for its failure to pay natural gas royalties on federal and Indian land. In January, Devon took \$2.2 billion from the Chinese government for a one-third stake in five gas plays, including Ohio's Utica Shale. In 2010, a family in Denton County, Texas, sued Devon for contaminating their water. The plaintiff's attorney alleged, "We believe that hundreds and more likely thousands of property owners have already had the water beneath their surface essentially ruined..." Also in 2010, Devon reportedly threatened to cap all its wells in Denton, TX, depriving the town of revenue, if then mayor Calvin Tillman didn't stop criticizing the industry for polluting.

ENCANA

In 2010, following up on a Nov. 22, 2009 gas spill in British Columbia, the Ministry of Environment charged Encana, America's 6th largest fracking company*, with introducing waste into the environment and failing to report the spill of a polluting substance. In August of 2010, Encana agreed to pay \$200,000 and pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the deaths of protected migratory birds in the company's open wastewater ponds in Colorado. Encana is the major gas company fracking near the Wyoming aquifer, which a preliminary report from the EPA said had probably been contaminated by gas drilling. The EPA found that Encana had failed to seal its wells properly.

EXXONMOBIL

The 1989 Exxon Valdez spill may be the most famous disaster attributable to America's number one fracking company*, but it is hardly the only one. In 1998, Exxon was assessed with a \$760 million punitive damage award to workers who had been exposed to toxic chemicals. In 1990, an Exxon pipeline spilled 567,000 gallons of oil into a waterway between New York City and New Jersey, leading the company to eventually admit that its leak detection system hadn't been working reliably for 12 years. Mobil was associated with decades of environmental degradation and human rights abuses in Nigeria. Villagers in Aceh, Indonesia, are currently suing ExxonMobil for complicity in brutal repression by the Indonesian Army, including rape, torture, kidnapping and murder. And the company is, reportedly, a responsible party for 41 Superfund sites in seventeen states.

HALIBURTON

The prime developer of the fracking process, Haliburton was also the company responsible, in 2010, for cementing the borehole on the BP Deepwater Horizon well. Though final legal responsibility has not yet been determined, it has been alleged that Halliburton continued using faulty cement for weeks after discovering it was unstable. Also in 2010, the United States filed a suit against a Halliburton subsidiary over improper charges for work in Iraq. In 2009, Halliburton pleaded guilty and agreed to pay a \$559 million fine in connection with a scheme to bribe officials in Nigeria. In 2004, Halliburton paid a \$7.5 million fine for misleading investors about its profitability (during the period when Dick Cheney ran the company). In 2002, a Haliburton subsidiary paid \$2 million to the Justice Department to settle charges that it had defrauded the government by overbilling expenses. In 1995, Haliburton paid a \$3.8 million fine and pleaded guilty to shipping equipment – including pulse neutron generators that could trigger a nuclear weapon — to Libya in violation of a U.S. ban.

SCHLUMBERGER**

In 2010, Schlumberger, the world's largest oilfield service company, admitted to breaching health and safety laws in connection with the careless handling of radioactive materials in the North Sea and was fined £300,000 (approx. \$480,000) by the Aberdeen Sheriff Court. In 2009, the Pennsylvania DEP fined Schlumberger \$15,557 for a 295-gallon spill of hydrochloric acid near Towanda, PA. In 2006, a Schlumberger subsidiary was fined \$18 million after federal investigators found it had committed visa fraud to bring in foreign workers 421 times between 2000 and 2004. In 1999, a U.S. District judge in Washington, DC, found Schlumberger guilty of criminal contempt for forming a joint venture in defiance of a previous decree.

*by amount of daily natural gas production, rankings from propublica.org

** research assistance by Anna Kucher



BETRAYAL

One thing that has hampered organizing against fracking is the way some major environmental organizations, without even knowing what's in frack fluid, endorsed the idea that fracking could be safe within a proper regulatory framework. Thus, a September 2011 statement by the Environmental Defense Fund's president Fred Krupp explained that he had agreed to serve on President Obama's shale gas task force because, "I believe we can safeguard our air and water and develop this American resource."

Natural Resources Defense Counsel president Frances Beinecke released a statement in July of 2011, saying the NRDC would never support fracking unless "...state and federal authorities have the tools they need to enforce essential safeguards."

In April of 2010, The Wilderness Society released a "Science and Policy Brief" that concluded, "...there are a number of common sense policies that Congress and the Obama Administration (as well as state and local governments) can undertake to make sure new natural gas developments protect our natural environment and human communities."

And in 2009, Sierra Club director Carl Pope actually toured the country with Chesapeake Energy CEO Aubrey McClendon, arguing that natural gas, with "appropriate safeguards," could help replace coal.

We don't know everything that went into the policy positions of the EDF, the NRDC or the Wilderness Society. We know a little bit more about what went into the Sierra Club's decision, because this February, *Time* revealed that the Sierra Club, under Pope, had taken vast sums of money from the gas industry, especially Chesapeake.

This led Sandra Steingraber to publish a response in Orion Magazine (orionmagazine.org), which we reprint here with permission.



Dear Sierra Club, I'm through with you.

For years we had a great relationship based on mutual admiration. You gave a glowing review of my first book, *Living Downstream*—a review that appeared in the pages of *Sierra* magazine and hailed me as "the new Rachel Carson." Since 1999 that phrase has linked us together in all the press materials that my publicist sends out. Your name appears with mine on the flaps of my book jackets, in the biography that introduces me at the speaker's podium, and in the press release that announced, last fall, that I was one of the lucky recipients of a \$100,000 Heinz Award for my research and writing on the environment.

I was proud to be affiliated with you. I hoped to live up to the moniker you bestowed upon me.

But more than a month has past since your executive director, Michael Brune, admitted in *Time* magazine that the Sierra Club had, between 2007 and 2010, clandestinely accepted \$25 million from the fracking industry, with most of the donations coming from Chesapeake Energy. Corporate Crime Reporter was hot on the trail of the story when it broke in *Time*.

From the start, Brune's declaration seemed less an acknowledgement of wrongdoing than an attempt to minister to a looming public relations problem. Would someone truly interested in atonement seek credit for choosing not to take additional millions of gas industry dollars ("Why the Sierra Club Turned Down \$26 Million in Contributions from Natural Gas Interests")?

Here, on top of the Marcellus Shale, along the border between Pennsylvania and New York—where we are surrounded by land leased to the gas industry; where we live in fear that our water will be ruined, our mortgages called in, our teenage children killed in fiery wrecks with 18-wheelers hauling toxic fracking waste on our rural, icy back roads; where we cash out our vacation days to board predawn buses to rallies and public hearings; where we fundraise, donate, testify, phone bank, lobby, submit public comments, sign up for trainings in nonviolent civil disobedience; where our children ask if we will be arrested, if we will have to move, if we will die, and what will happen to the bats, the honeybees, the black bears, the grapevines, the apple orchards, the cows' milk; where we have learned all about casing failures, blow-outs, gas flares, clear-cuts, legal exemptions, the benzene content of production fluid, the radioactive content of drill cuttings; where people suddenly start sobbing in church and no one needs to ask why—here in the crosshairs of Chesapeake Energy, Michael Brune's announcement was met with a kind of stunned confusion.

The Sierra Club had taken money, gobs of it, from an industry that we in the grassroots have been in the fight of our lives to oppose. The largest, most venerable environmental organization in the United States secretly aligned with the very company that seeks to occupy our land, turn it inside out, blow it apart, fill it with poison. All for the goal of extracting a powerful heat-trapping

gas, methane, that plays a significant role in climate change.

Climate change: identified by *The Lancet* as the number-one global health problem of the 21st century. Children, according to the World Health Organization, are among its primary victims.

It was as if, on the eve of D-day, the anti-Fascist partisans had discovered that Churchill was actually in cahoots with the Axis forces.

So, I've had many weeks now to ponder the whole betrayal and watch for signs of redemption from Sierra Club's national leadership. Would it be "coming clean" (to quote the title of the executive director's recent book)?

Freed from the silence that money bought, would it now lend its voice in support of environmental groups in New York State that seek a statewide prohibition on fracking? Would it come to the aid of those in Pennsylvania calling for a halt to the devastation there?

Would it, at the very least, endorse the modest proposal of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy, who recommend a national moratorium on fracking until human health impacts are researched?

And would Michael Brune humbly ask forgiveness from antifracking activist Lisa Wright, formerly on the executive committee of the Sierra Club's Finger Lakes chapter? As recently as last May, in response to a direct query from Wright, who had become suspicious, Brune wrote, "I do want to be clear about one thing: we do not receive any money from Aubrey McClendon, nor his company Chesapeake. For that matter, we do not receive any contributions from the natural gas industry. Hopefully this will alleviate some concerns."

The answer to all of the above questions: No.

So, Sierra Club, call some other writer your new Rachel Carson. I'll be erasing your endorsement from my website.

And take back these words, penned by your own fierce and uncorruptible founder, John Muir, that have hung for years by my writing desk:

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.
The wind will blow their own freshness into you,
and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.*

There is no peace in the mountains and hills over the Marcellus Shale. No glad tidings. The forests of Pennsylvania are filled with chainsaws, flares, drill pads, pipelines, condensers, generators, and the 24/7 roar of compressor stations. The wind that blows east from the gas fields carries toluene, benzene, and diesel exhaust. Sunshine turns it all into poisonous ozone. Storms send silt into trout streams from denuded hillsides and cause good people to lie awake at night, worried about overflowing impoundment pits full of neurotoxic chemicals and overturned frack trucks full of carcinogens.

Even now, plans are being laid to transport 88.2 million gallons of liquid propane and butane to caverns that lie beneath the idyllic New York lakeshore where

my ten-year-old son was born. ("This transaction is yet another example of the successful execution on our plan to build an integrated natural gas storage and transportation hub in the Northeast," says the company called Inergy.) When you tramp through the fields and forests where I live—40 percent of the land in my county is leased to the gas industry—cares don't drop off like autumn leaves. They accumulate like convoys of flowback fluid laced with arsenic, radium, and barium with no place, no place to go.

And, yes, they are fracking in Rachel Carson's beloved Allegheny County, too.

The hard truth: National Sierra Club served as the political cover for the gas industry and for the politicians who take their money and do their bidding. It had a hand in setting in motion the wheels of environmental destruction and human suffering. It was complicit in bringing extreme fossil fuel extraction onshore, into our communities, farmlands, and forests, and in blowing up the bedrock of our nation. And I can't get over it.

So, here are some parting words from the former new Rachel Carson.

The path to salvation lies in reparations—not in accepting praise for overcoming the urge to commit the same crime twice. So shutter your doors. Cash out your assets. Don a backpack and hike through the gaslands of America. Along the way, bear witness. Apologize. Offer compensation to the people who have no drinkable water and can't sell their homes. Whose farm ponds bubble with methane. Whose kids have nosebleeds and mysterious rashes. Write big checks to the people who are putting their bodies on the line in the fight to ban fracking, and to the grassroots groups that are organizing them.

Finally, go to Washington and say what the Sierra Club should have said in 2007: Fracking is not a bridge to the future. It is a plank on which we walk blindfolded at the point of a sword. There is no right way to do it. And the pirates are not our friends.

Sincerely,
Sandra Steingraber

Sandra Steingraber, PhD, is the author of Living Downstream, published in second edition by Da Capo Press to coincide with the release of the documentary film adaptation.

**The only possible guarantee
of the future
is responsible behavior
in the present.**

...Wendell Berry...

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OUR OUTREACH TO THE FRACKING INDUSTRY:

Ten Ways Frackwater Can Get Into **Everyone's** Water

Because the name of this publication is "The No Frack Almanac," people get the impression that we entertain some hostility toward natural gas exploration. So we want to assure our readers that, actually, we want to help the frackers every bit as much as they want to help America. One way we can do this is by helping them to understand some of the simple things they seem to have great difficulty with, like this whole idea of water being contaminated by their activities.

Oh, these poor dumbstruck frackers seem to have such a hard time figuring out how they could be responsible for the wave of anecdotal reports alleging well contamination; the lawsuits they have had to settle with hush-money non-disclosure clauses; or the EPA's preliminary conclusion that they probably polluted an entire aquifer in Wyoming. How, they ask, could these things happen?

Let us take this opportunity to reach out to the frackers and offer what solace we can. No, we cannot change what they have done, but at least we can explain it to them.

DEAR, DEAR FRACKERS, HERE ARE **TEN WAYS** YOU CONTAMINATE OUR WATER:

I – FROM THE SURFACE

- 1 By sending waste to treatment plants that are not equipped to properly filter it.
- 2 By spilling. Surface spills have occurred through negligence, criminal behavior, and accidents at the well site and on the road.
- 3 By the failure of retention ponds and mud pits. These ponds and pits can have inadequate or faulty liners, can be breached, and can overflow in a flood.
- 4 By releasing contaminants into the air. Particulate matter and vapors from fracking operations can return to earth as soot or rain.

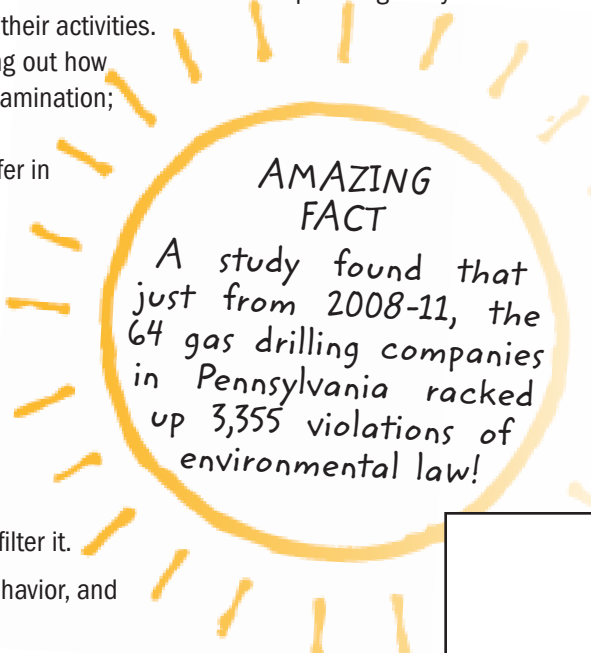
II – FROM FAILURES IN THE DRILLING PROCESS

- 5 By casing leaks, whether caused by improper joining or substandard material.
- 6 By failed cement jobs. Cement failures happen both all the time and over time.
- 7 By blowback. When drilling operations hit pockets of gas, great amounts of fluid can uncontrollably regurgitate to the surface.

III – FROM UNPREDICTABLE VECTORS

- 8 By fracking into abandoned wells. As we reported in our last issue, thousands of deteriorating abandoned wells are completely lost and may, in fact, be overgrown with vegetation. Frack fluid, which can spread for more than a mile from the well pad, can travel underground into these unseen well shafts and flow back up into the water table or to the surface.
- 9 By fracking into atypical geology, such as an unknown fault line or intrusion (where a different kind of rock thrusts through the shale), fracking fluids can be conducted directly into the water table.

10! BY SECRECY. Since all of the chemicals used in fracking haven't been disclosed, no one can test for the unknown ones, and if no one can test for them, no one can stop them if they start leaching into the groundwater. It's kind of like the difference between a water pipe bursting in your house when you're home and a water pipe bursting in your house when you're on vacation.



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ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO STORE GAS

Norfolk Southern Train Derailments

If Inergy uses salt domes in Reading, NY, as a gas distribution hub for the northeast, as it has said it wants to do, a great deal of flammable gas will travel in and out of the area via the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Thus, Norfolk Southern's safety record has direct bearing on the larger question of whether or not the entire gas storage project is safe. We present here a record of some relatively recent Norfolk Southern derailments:



Left: The June 30, 2006 Norwich derailment, photo courtesy of Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. Right: The March 27, 2012 Ligonier derailment, photo Sam Householder, Goshen News

January 6, 2005 – Graniteville, South Carolina. Two Norfolk Southern trains -- one of them carrying chlorine -- collided because of a misaligned railroad switch. Sixty tons of chlorine gas was released. 5,400 people were evacuated, 250 were treated for chlorine exposure, nine died. The accident also caused the closure of an Avondale Mills plant, ultimately contributing to the loss of 4000 jobs. In addition to issues being litigated and several other penalties, Norfolk Southern was fined \$32,500 for failing to promptly report the chlorine release to the National Response Center.

August 28, 2005 – A Norfolk Southern train derailed near R.D. Bailey Lake in West Virginia, after three men placed an obstruction on the track to divert attention from a robbery. Three locomotives and twenty-three cars filled with coal derailed.

June 30, 2006 – 28 cars of a Norfolk Southern freight train derailed in Norwich Township, Pennsylvania, releasing 42,000 gallons of lye into a major trout stream. Thousands of fish were killed, with effects being felt as far as thirty miles downstream. The train had been going 76 mph in a 15 mph zone, and the driver, who was reportedly incoherent after the derailment, was found to have morphine and benzodiazepines in his blood stream. He pleaded guilty to charges connected to the derailment and was sentenced to one to two years in jail plus community service. Norfolk Southern had reportedly disciplined him for similar problems in the past but had still left him in charge of a train. Norfolk Southern pleaded no contest to pollution charges and paid a civil penalty of \$7,350,000.

October 20, 2006 – A Norfolk Southern train, including 83 tank cars carrying ethanol, derailed while crossing a bridge across the Beaver River in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. Twenty-three of the tank cars derailed. Around 20 of them ruptured and ignited, creating a fire that burned for 48 hours and required the evacuation of nearby homes and businesses. Unburned ethanol was also released into the river and surrounding soil. No one was killed or injured.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found that the track was so worn that "the rail wear measurements (and sample rail sections) taken at the point of derailment exceeded even the [Norfolk Southern] threshold for rail removal," that Norfolk Southern "did not conduct internal rail inspections frequently enough to reliably detect an internal defect before it could grow to critical size..." and that the "probable cause of the accident" was "the Norfolk Southern Railway Company's inadequate rail inspection and maintenance program..."

December 8, 2006 – A Norfolk Southern train carrying lumber and chemicals derailed in Catawissa, Pennsylvania. A caustic substance was spilled.

March 20, 2007 – Thirty-seven cars of a 148-car Norfolk Southern coal train derailed near Suffolk, Virginia, spilling coal and disrupting power to about 1000 homes.

October 15, 2007 – A Norfolk Southern train partially derailed after colliding with another piece of railroad equipment in Harrisburg, PA. There were no injuries

and no fire, but a large amount of fuel leaked.

November 30, 2007 – Several cars of a Norfolk Southern freight train were damaged, when it was rear-ended by an Amtrak passenger train. The NTSB found the Amtrak train at fault. Five crew members and 25 others were injured on the Amtrak train. The damaged Norfolk Southern cars were not carrying hazardous materials.

December 29, 2007 – Nine cars, carrying ethanol and propane, of a 42-car Norfolk Southern train derailed in western Pennsylvania. Two of the cars caught fire.

June 3, 2008 – 34 cars of a 78-car Norfolk Southern train derailed near Kinderhook, Illinois. No injuries were reported. Part of the train's load of corn syrup and coal spilled into a creek. Highway traffic and electric service were disrupted in the area.

July 29, 2008 – 22 cars of a Norfolk Southern coal train left the tracks but did not overturn near Roanoke, Virginia.

March 9, 2009 – Nine cars of a 43 car Norfolk Southern train derailed near Scranton, Pennsylvania. Four cars overturned, spilling their cargos of lumber and automobiles. Two cars carrying hazardous chemicals stayed on the tracks.

February 18, 2010 – Ten cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed near Butler, Indiana. Several truck containers were spilled.

March 26, 2010 – 38 cars of a 126-car Norfolk Southern coal train derailed in Waterloo, IN, spilling tons of coal and disrupting rail service.

June 10, 2010 – Twenty-four cars of a 97-car Norfolk Southern train derailed in Liberty, South Carolina. A toxic substance was spilled and over 400 homes were evacuated, but the spill was contained by hazmat teams.

June 17, 2010 – Thirty-seven cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed near Bryan, Ohio.

July 17, 2010 – A Norfolk Southern train derailed near Keystone, West Virginia. There were no injuries, but several automobiles were destroyed.

August 10, 2010 – Twenty-nine cars of a 136-car Norfolk Southern train derailed in New Orleans. The cars had been carrying hazardous materials but were reportedly empty at the time of the derailment.

January 4, 2011 – Eleven cars from a Norfolk Southern train, carrying piggybacked truck trailers, derailed in Douglasville, Georgia. Dozens of the trailers ruptured, but none contained hazardous materials. Douglasville's mayor said that if the accident had

occurred just 50 yards to the east, "You would have probably had fires, you would have had a number of devastating things that would have happened."

February 6, 2011 – A broken rail caused a Norfolk Southern train carrying ethanol to derail in Arcadia, Ohio, triggering a massive explosion and fire that burned for nearly 24 hours. Nearby families were evacuated. No injuries were reported.

April 15, 2011 – 15 cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed in Hilton, Georgia. No injuries or environmental releases reported.

June 29, 2011 – 18 cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed in Monroe County, Georgia. One car on the train carried the hazardous chemical chlorobutane, but the derailed cars remained upright and did not rupture.

August 13, 2011 – In Ridgeway, Virginia, a Norfolk Southern train carrying agricultural products deliberately derailed when an obstacle was spotted on the track ahead. No one was injured, and the crew's actions may have prevented a much worse incident. The obstruction, it was later determined, had been placed on the track by three boys between the ages of 12 and 14.

November 13, 2011 – A Norfolk Southern train derailed in Altoona, PA. Numerous container boxes were scattered on the ground.

November 19, 2011 – A single car from a Norfolk Southern train derailed and wound up upside down in an Elmira, NY, parking lot, but Norfolk Southern failed to notify any municipal authority. NY Senator Charles Schumer called Norfolk Southern's response, "wholly inadequate and, frankly, outrageous." In March, 2012, the Federal Railroad Administration announced it would be investigating the incident.

December 17, 2011 – Two cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed in South Middleton Township, in Cumberland County Pennsylvania. No injuries were reported.

January 5, 2012 – Six cars of a 74-car B&H train derailed on track maintained by Norfolk Southern near Painted Post, NY. Three of the cars were carrying propane, but did not rupture.

February 5, 2012 – One car of a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Memphis. The train was carrying double-stacked containers, and one container fell off of the railcar and onto an avenue. No injuries were reported. Susan M. Terpay, a spokesperson for Norfolk Southern, told the press, "This type of incident is highly unusual."

March 27, 2012 – 22 cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed near Ligonier, Indiana, spilling chemicals and igniting what one news report called, "a toxic fire that burned for nearly two days." 50 residences were asked to evacuate. No one was injured.

HOW DOES INERGY TREAT PEOPLE?

Like many companies, Inergy is involved in more than one business. In addition to its proposal to build a gas storage facility in Reading, NY, the company is also building pipelines in Pennsylvania. We might get an idea of how Inergy will treat people here from the way it has treated people there.

FROM THE ITHACA JOURNAL, JANUARY 31, 2012:

When federal regulators approved a 39-mile natural gas pipeline through northern Pennsylvania's pristine Endless Mountains, they cited the operator's assurances that it would make sparing use of eminent domain as it negotiated with more than 150 property owners along the pipeline's route. Yet a few days after winning approval for its \$250 million MARC 1 pipeline in the heart of the giant Marcellus Shale gas field, the company began condemnation proceedings against nearly half of the landowners — undercutting part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's approval rationale and angering landowners. Some of the landowners are now fighting the company in court, complaining that [Inergy subsidiary] Central New York Oil and Gas Company LLC steamrolled them by refusing to negotiate in good faith...

Indeed, the commission said last year its approval relied on the company's assertion that it was acquiring land "through negotiated agreements with landowners, thus minimizing the need" to condemn people's land. In reality, the company had prepared condemnation papers for dozens of properties even before winning commission approval.

IN SENECA LAKE SALT DOMES...

The Smoking Salt Caverns?

We present here some explosive excerpts from a really boring article, entitled, "Appalachian Foreland Thrusting in Salina Salt, Watkins Glen, New York," by Jacoby and Delwig, published in 1974 by the Northern Ohio Geological Society. The article covers geological anomalies discovered in Seneca Lake salt wells during various historical explorations. A line drawn between the wells mentioned here encompasses most of the area of Inergy's proposed gas storage facility:

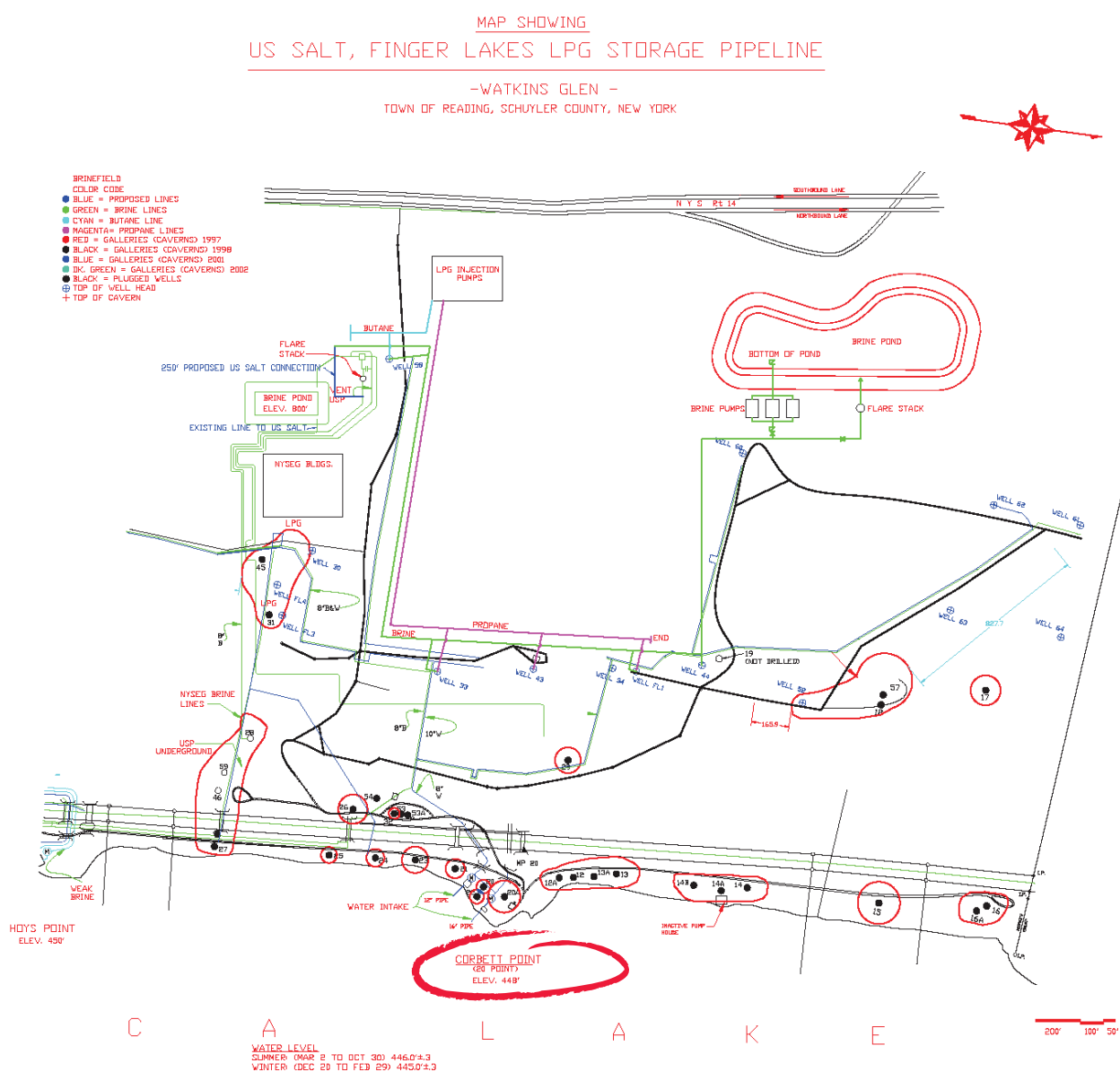
In gross aspect the local structural picture is relatively simple, provided of course, that one ignores the multiplicity of small faults which play a critical role in the development of the brine field...

Well 29. During fracturing, a flow of brine at the surface 0.5 mi. to the north must certainly be interpreted as the result of movement of brine from the well along the tear fault.

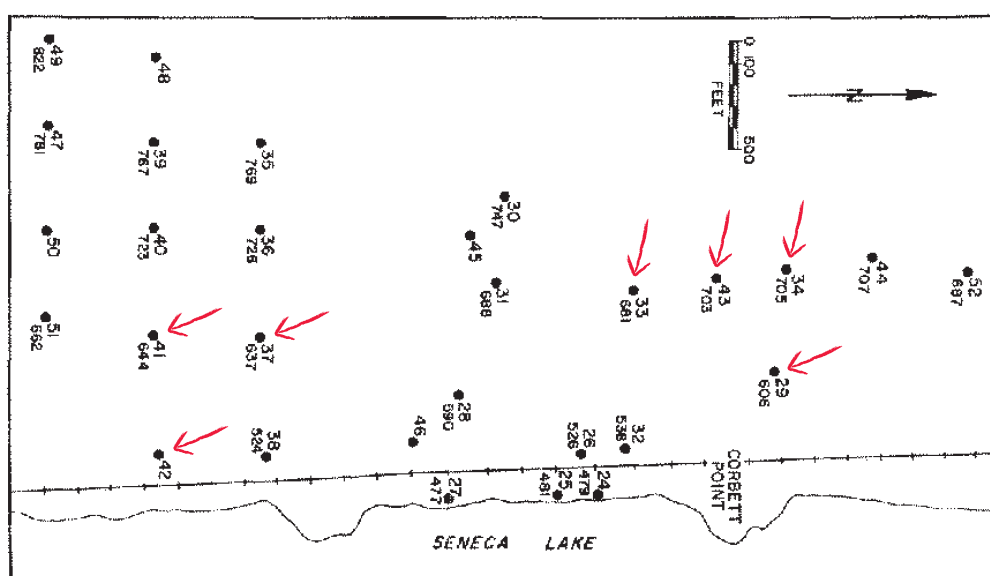
Well 33, 34, 43. In fracturing of well 33 to 34, alternate buildup and recession of brine from and recession of pumping pressures indicated that the solution channel was being closed by rock movement...

Wells 41, 42 and 37. The inability to fracture from well 41 to 42 and the subsequent connection between 41 and 37 may be related to the position of the tear fault... an effort to fracture from Well 40 to Well 39 resulted in connection with Well 42; no connection was made with 41, this demonstrating the complexity of the structural setting in this area.

In other words, previous explorations right where Inergy proposes to store gas have shown unexpected fracture patterns and movements of brine because of fault-related unpredictability. Inergy actually cited this same Jacoby and Delwig paper in its Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, but not the sections quoted above.



This drawing from Inergy's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement shows aspects of the projected gas storage facility on Seneca Lake and their proximity to Corbett Point.



The area between the arrows represents the area of geologic unpredictability around Corbett Point, as cited by Jacoby and Delwig

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A Guest View

by Maura Stephens

CAUTION! FRACKING PUTS AMERICAN DREAMS AT STAKE

We often hear pro-fracking people say something like this:

“Why shouldn’t I get the money from leasing my land?

I’ve worked hard all my life, and I can barely afford the mortgage, sending my kids to college, or paying our health insurance. That’s not fair. The American Dream is about getting ahead.

Leasing means we can stop having to worry about the bills, buy a new car, do some repairs.

And who are *you*—who is *anyone*—to tell me what I can do with my own land? It’s nobody’s business but my own.”



PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

That argument sounds, on the surface, defensible. But in truth, the “American dream” has been historically about working hard and reaping the benefits by virtue of that hard work—in promotions and salary increases, entrepreneurial success, and, for farmers, in increased yields and market prices.

Fracking adds an altogether new category. It does not earn one money or success because of one’s own hard work. In fracking, you don’t do a lick of work—just sign on the dotted line. And sit back and collect fat checks. At least that’s how it’s marketed.

The American Dream has always included home ownership, and many people who lease their land to drillers claim they have the right to do whatever they want with their property. But that’s not legally true. People do *not* have the right to inflict damage on their neighbors or on their neighbors’ property, or on public property.

There’s plenty of evidence that fracking harms water, air, soil, health, and property values. The civil law rule holds that if you do something that harms the use and enjoyment of another property, you’re liable for that harm. If something you do adversely affects

your neighbor’s land, and your neighbor sues you, the court could find that you might reasonably have foreseen the damage to your neighbor’s property.

People who lease are also under the mistaken impression they’ll retain the right to determine land use, but that is essentially ceded to the extraction company.

Two stories I learned during travels in southwestern Pennsylvania in October 2010 chillingly illustrated just how much is at stake, especially for farmers who have lovingly tended their land over years.

One, Ron, had leased his land in 2005, having been told nothing about high-volume, slickwater horizontal hydraulic fracturing. He naturally assumed it would be the same as his grandfather’s well. A hunter-fisher, he raised beef cattle and had planned to cultivate catfish. Shortly after the first well went in on his property, a burst pipe runoff killed every living thing in the pond. By then four drilling-company roads criss-crossed the fields, and Ron could no longer keep cattle. The gas workers had little respect for his land, and he was always picking up trash — including used condoms. He and his family were forced to abandon their home

when their water well was also contaminated. Their American dream was dead.

The other farmer, Terry, and his wife had two sons. From the time the boys were toddlers, they’d been promised that when they were grown they could have a portion of the farm on which to build a house and raise their own families. One son was getting married in a few months; he and his fiancée had started building their house. But the gas company decided that was the exact spot where they wanted to begin drilling. The son and his new wife moved into an apartment over a shop downtown.

Terry and his wife hadn’t even leased the land. They’d bought the farm in the 1970s with a 99-year lease on it that dated to the 1920s. Yet for three generations of this family, the American Dream had vanished forever.

Maura Stephens is an independent journalist and a cofounder of the Coalition to Protect New York. Her book *Frack Attack: Fighting Back* will be out this spring

A MEMO TO THE ANTI-FRACKING MOVEMENT

by Jeremy Weir Alderson

As the editor and publisher of the No Frack Almanac, I have had the chance to meet many of the extraordinary people working in the anti-fracking movement. Having come to this work from the homeless movement, I have been impressed, to put it mildly, by the breadth and depth of activism on this issue, and I know that many of you reading this are far more knowledgeable than I am. Nonetheless, I hope you will permit me to offer a few words on one direction I think the New York anti-fracking movement should take.

A very brief history of our current holding action against fracking is that Pennsylvania was hit before it knew what hit it, and we here in New York got a little extra time to react, because we saw what happened to Pennsylvania. We now have a growing movement in place, and the gas companies have already lost the public relations battle. Seven years ago, no one even knew what fracking was. Now, despite what must surely be one of the largest ad campaigns of its kind ever, the frackers have already lost the support of half the state. And so far, the courts are upholding the right of communities to *keep them out*.

They’re losing ground fast, and they’re going to lose it a lot faster, if fracking comes into New York, and our already established network of opposition starts spreading the news about lies, broken promises, damaged environments, illnesses, spills and contaminated water right here in our state – just like we warned about all along. In other words, *no matter what* the Cuomo administration decides to do, we’re in good shape to *win this fight*, because the credibility of the pro-fracking forces is crumbling as fast as Toto can pull back the curtain.

The same cannot be said for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is down and it’s losing ground. Instead of communities being empowered, a new law has *stripped* local authorities of their ability to regulate fracking. The opposition is in a daze. We should go to their aid, just like the Freedom Riders went to the Jim Crow south. Let us organize to go and demonstrate *in Pennsylvania*, and deliver this message: “Your fight is our fight.” And let us give our direct support, by sending a NY delegation to any Pennsylvania demonstration we can, so as to show solidarity and swell its numbers. It’s the right thing to do, and from a purely tactical standpoint, anything we do to weaken the frackers in Pennsylvania, strengthens us here.

Let us salute the valor of everyone who has helped hold the line, and let us continue to strengthen our defenses, but let us not just fight a holding action. *Let us take the fight to Pennsylvania!*

Something to Think About

Approximate Total Renewable Fresh Water Supply in Cubic Kilometers*:
Antiqua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Barbados, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Luxemburg, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

= 25

Approximate Volume of Water in Cubic Kilometers**:
Seneca and Cayuga Lakes

= 25

*Source: *The World’s Water, Volume 7, Pacific Institute, 2007*

**Sources: *International Lake Environment Committee and Cayuga Lake Watershed Network*

IT’S A WACKY-FRACKY WORLD!

- **YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN’T HIDE:** A massive landslide, originating from the location of a major ExxonMobil gas project in the Hides region of Papua New Guinea, buried two villages, killed at least 25 people and cut-off access to the area.
- **BULGARIA SOUNDS LIKE A MADE-UP COUNTRY ANYWAY:** Responding to massive street protests that erupted when the government gave Chevron permission to begin fracking, Bulgaria has now passed a fracking moratorium.
- **“TEMPORARY” MY BUTT:** A judge in the Dutch city of Boxtell ruled that UK fracker Caudrilla’s application for a “temporary” test well was invalid because wells are never temporary if gas is discovered.
- **IS THIS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE?:** According to an investigative report, Canada’s pro-fracking Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, is affiliated with a religious movement that “describes environmental regulation as an impediment to God’s will”
- **WE COULDN’T PRINT THIS IN AN APRIL FOOL’S EDITION, BECAUSE YOU’D THINK IT WASN’T TRUE:** As a North Sea gas well belonging to French energy giant Total leaked uncontrollably for its third straight week, the Scottish government brought in “sensory testers” to taste nearby fish and declare them “untainted by hydrocarbons.”