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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Marcellus Shale Drilling

Re: Marcellus Shale Drilling

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2010/3/3 11:44:51

URL:

Yeah, some topics to make sure to include:

Issues:

1. Water source. When, where, at what flows, etc. How does the permit process work?
2. Sedimentation. Building of roads and pads makes a muddy mess, which goes into the streams. What are the controls in place, can they be made better?
3. Wastewater disposal. Are treatment plants advanced enough to make it non-harmful? Are there enough treatment facilities?
4. Local roads. Large equipment in rural areas leads to expensive road maintenance, bridge problems, etc. Are the companies helping to foot the bill?
5. Water contamination. There have been scattered reports of methane contamination of wells and waterways. Is this caused by a breach in the upper containment in wells, or seeping from the deep? How common is it, on a % basis?
6. Spills and accidents. There have been issues with pipes and tanks leaking, etc. How common is this? Can it be avoided with better equipment, better installation procedures, more common inspections?
7. General ugliness, not in my back yard. During the drilling operation, these things are big, loud, and ugly, and tend to be located where people go for the exact opposite effect. Even after the wells are capped and producing, you still have tanks, pipes, access roads, etc. Loss of recreation, both temporary and permanent, is not only bad for the economy, but also bad for people's well being.

Benefits:

1. Jobs, of course, but how many are local? Do they spend money in the local communities, or take it all home?
2. Landowners get some money, of course, and use that in the community.
3. The state government gets tax revenue, so either more good things can be funded or taxes can be lowered.
4. Gas is cleaner to burn than coal. For those that believe/are concerned about global warming, this is a good step.
5. Less dependence on foreign oil.
6. Gas prices will either decrease somewhat, or at least prevent more severe increases, which has a benefit to the economy.
7. One could make the argument that cutting small parts of the forest for the drilling operation, and then letting it regrow after active drilling is complete, will create a successional forest and increase biodiversity in plant life, which tends to increase diversity and increase carrying capacity of animals.