



Opposition to fracking grows

Moratorium bill to halt drilling is introduced

The public's opposition to fracking is growing, and our campaign to keep Pennsylvania safe from drilling is gaining momentum. New bills calling for a fracking moratorium and additional regulations on the gas industry have been gaining momentum in the Legislature.

PennEnvironment joined state Sen. Jim Ferlo as he announced his legislation to stop fracking in Pennsylvania. Recent polling shows that nearly two-thirds of Pennsylvanians support halting fracking in the state. Nearly 60 percent agree fracking poses a major risk to water resources.

Numbers don't lie

This past fall, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center also released a report quantifying the dangers of fracking. "Fracking by the Numbers" assesses the footprint of fracking in Pennsylvania and nationwide. And the effects of gas development are startling:

- Gas development around the U.S. has already created 280 billion gallons of toxic wastewater—enough to cover the city of Philadelphia with more than nine feet of toxic wastewater.
- In 2012, 1.2 billion gallons of wastewater and 27,000 tons of air pollution were produced by gas development.
- Since 2005, more than 8 million tons of global warming pollution can be attributed to gas development.



Bob Billstone

▲ PennEnvironment's Field Director Adam Garber stands with state Sen. Jim Ferlo (right) after the senator announced his legislation to stop drilling.

"The numbers don't lie—fracking has taken a dirty and destructive toll on our environment," said Lina Blount, field associate with PennEnvironment. "If fracking continues unchecked, these numbers will only get more dire."

100,000 Pennsylvanians

And there's one more important number to highlight in this fight against fracking:

the 100,000 petition signers who called on Gov. Tom Corbett last summer to end dangerous drilling in Pennsylvania.

"The bottom line is this: The numbers on fracking add up to an environmental nightmare," said Blount. "For public health and our environment, we need to put a stop to fracking."



Breakthroughs

take action

To join our efforts against dirty fracking, visit: www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ John Rumpler, senior attorney, and Erika Staaf, clean water advocate, appear in a Breakthroughs video that will air on public television stations.



Staff

To our members

As with the start of any new year, it's a good time to reflect upon where we've been and where we're going. And if you're like me, maybe you throw in a New Year's resolution or two.

One New Year's resolution in 2014 is clear: to keep fighting the good fight and speaking truth to power on behalf of our environment. It's a commonsense resolution to make, but an important one to keep.

And as you'll read in this newsletter, we're making some real headway. Whether it's our proposed litigation to take on illegal water polluters in Pennsylvania, or our federal efforts to reduce global warming emissions and water pollution, we must be resolute to see these challenges through.

And I know we will in 2014, with your ongoing support and involvement. So thank you.

Sincerely,

David Masur
Executive Director

Recent action

Gov. Corbett gets "F" on environmental report card

As part of its effort to educate the public, PennEnvironment released its gubernatorial environmental report card for Gov. Tom Corbett this past fall. Unfortunately, the governor received an "F" for his support of, and role in, passing some of the most hotly-debated anti-environmental policies in Harrisburg.

"From the first bill he signed into law as governor, which gutted energy conservation for buildings across Pennsylvania, to proposing to dismantle funding for farmland preservation, this report card makes it clear that when it comes to our environment, the governor has made the wrong choices," said Adam Garber, PennEnvironment field director.



The full report card can be viewed at: www.PennEnvironment.org/GovReportCard

Lawsuit announced against Susquehanna polluter

This past fall, PennEnvironment joined the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) to announce our intent to sue the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) for ongoing Clean Water Act violations at the agency's Bellefonte State Fish Hatchery.

The hatchery frequently discharges pollutants through wastewater into the nearby Spring Creek—a tributary of the Susquehanna River that ultimately flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The wastewater contains nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, solids and other pollutants that are not in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

"It's unacceptable to have this facility, whose mission is to help us enjoy Pennsylvania's waterways, turn around and pollute them," said PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur.

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Pennsylvania's five filthiest global warming polluters

The nation's aging fleet of power plants is the single largest source of global warming pollution in America, and five Pennsylvania plants are contributing more than their share of the problem, according to a PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center report released this past fall.

The report, "America's Dirtiest Power Plants," illustrates the scale of carbon pollution from Pennsylvania's power plants. The report ranks the dirtiest plants on the heels of the Obama administration pressing for a new set of rules to tackle global warming.

The five biggest polluters are...

In Pennsylvania, the five dirtiest power plants for carbon are: FirstEnergy's Bruce Mansfield plant, the Hatfield Ferry Power Station, the Keystone Generating Station, the Conemaugh coal-fired power plant, and the Homer City Station.

Obviously, Pennsylvania needs to clean up its fleet of dirty power plants. But federal action is also needed to help clean up these power plants in Pennsylvania and all the other polluting ones across the country.

For example, one lone power plant in Georgia, the Scherer Plant, emits as much carbon pollution as 4.4 million cars. All told, power plants are responsible for 40 percent of emissions nationwide.

Luckily, late last year, President Obama directed his Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set new limits on carbon emissions from new and existing power plants.

Pennsylvanians want stricter standards

Not surprisingly, lobbyists for the dirty power companies pledged to oppose these new protections and attempt to roll them back—even though more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians, and 3.2 million Americans, have called on the Obama administration to ratchet down global warming pollution.

PennEnvironment will press our state leaders to take action on global warming and defend the president's proposal to reduce the pollution altering our climate.

"Pennsylvania's dirtiest power plants are the elephant in the room when it comes to global warming," said Elowyn Corby, PennEnvironment's clean energy associate. "If we want a cleaner, safer future for our kids, we can't afford to ignore power plants' overwhelming contribution to global warming. Tackling the problem means cleaning up the dirtiest power plants."



research

▲ PennEnvironment's Clean Energy Associate Elowyn Corby released our report, "America's Dirtiest Power Plants," in Scranton this fall.

22% of Pennsylvania's emissions come from these fifty five:



[1] Bruce Mansfield, Shippingport [2] Hatfield Ferry, Masontown [3] Keystone, Shelocta [4] Conemaugh, New Florence [5] Homer City, Homer City

To read the full report, visit:
www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org



pa.house.gov

Interview with Rep. Matt Cartwright

What environmental issues are most important for your district, and for Pennsylvania?

One of the largest issues facing my district is hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Many of the problems with fracking stem from the initial drilling. In Pennsylvania, in particular, drilling has been known to contaminate drinking water and currently presents an unacceptable health risk.

Additionally, we must address the growing issues surrounding climate change. We can clearly see the effects carbon emissions are having on the climate in the form of more frequent, more intense, and more deadly storms, as well as damaging and potentially deadly forest fires, heat waves that threaten the very young, the very old, and the very poor, and some of the most damaging droughts in more than 70 years.

Tell me about the work you're doing to protect our environment.

I am proud of my efforts to regulate hydrofracking. Most recently I introduced the CLEANER Act, which ends exemptions for the safe disposal of hazardous fracking waste materials.

What role do you see PennEnvironment playing in environmental protection?

One of the largest obstacles standing in the way of strengthening environmental regulations and laws is simply the lack of understanding about the dangers our country is facing as a result of manmade environmental issues. By educating the public about environmental threats, and helping engage them in the political process, PennEnvironment plays a critical role in helping close that gap, and building the political support it will take to protect our environment.

To read the entire interview, visit:
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PennEnvironment

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

New rule good news for PA rivers, streams

Whether you're kayaking in Pittsburgh's Three Rivers, fishing in the Susquehanna River, or walking along the Schuylkill, Pennsylvania's scenic rivers and streams are part of what makes our state so special. Yet our waterways continue to face serious pollution—from sewage overflows, overdevelopment, and unrestricted pollution—due to loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

Fortunately, President Obama recently took a much-needed step to close these polluter-friendly loopholes. But not surprisingly, polluters and their allies in Congress are trying to block these commonsense clean water protections.

PennEnvironment is doubling down. At the local level in Pittsburgh, we're working with our allies to push for smart, green solutions, such as green roofs, that will help protect the Three Rivers and all our waterways from pollution. We're pairing that with our work to demonstrate overwhelming public support for tough, federal Clean Water Act standards to protect the Delaware, Schuylkill, Pittsburgh's Three Rivers and all of our waterways.



Staff

local action

PennEnvironment has been working to protect our Three Rivers—and all of Pennsylvania's waterways—from pollution.

◀ *PennEnvironment's Erika Staaf speaks with the media about the importance of standing up to polluters and protecting our air and water.*