

VOTER

League of Women Voters of
Indiana County, Pennsylvania
www.palwv.org/indiana



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Good News about Fracing Water

Range Resources LLP is reusing its flowback to frac new Marcellus Shale natural gas wells in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Range is piping its flowback directly from the well through a loop that contains a filter. Then, fresh water and fracing chemicals are added to the loop to make the needed volume to frac the next well. The waste from the filtration process is trucked to a wastewater treatment plant.

Only 30% to 40% of the frac water returns to the surface. It is that water that is filtered and reused. No one knows what happens to the water that stays underground.

Fracing is the procedure that follows drilling. Two to ten million gallons of fresh water plus the fracing chemicals used to keep the pipe and perforations clean and open are pumped under high pressure down the well. The water breaks up the shale, releasing the gas to flow back into the pipe and up to the wellhead. A portion of the fracing fluid returns to the surface as flowback.

Flowback is the water and chemicals plus whatever the frac fluid dissolved underground. The make-up of the dissolved solids depends upon the drilling site. In southwestern Pennsylvania chlorides and heavy metals are prevalent.

Bryan Swistock, Penn State Water Specialist, explained in a Webinar that the top third of the flowback is reusable, the second third is questionable, and the bottom third is too heavily contaminated to be used. In a Marcellus Shale natural gas well the pipe may extend vertically over 5,000 feet and another 5,000 feet horizontally.

Recycling the frac water is an immense savings to the environment and to Range. It decreases the amount of water needed to be taken from streams and aquifers. There are fewer heavy water haulers bringing fresh water and hauling away flowback. Fewer trucks mean less road damage and fewer noxious diesel fumes from truck engines. Nor is contaminated water stored on the site.



WHERE TO FIND THE MARCELLUS SHALE STUDY GUIDES

It is very easy to find the study guides online. Go to the LWVPA website: www.palwv.org/ and on the home page click on study guides in the Marcellus shale story. The guides give the background information you will need to take part in the LWVPS consensus process. You can also browse the LWVPA website for other items of interest.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES HEALTH CARE ALERT

LWV members should have received the following alert from the League of Women Voters of the US:

Universal coverage that includes a public insurance option is critically important to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage. But insurance companies and the ideological opponents of reform are fighting the public option tooth and nail.

A public insurance option will ensure consumer choice and control rising costs—and make it possible for Americans who can't obtain coverage through traditional employer-sponsored plans to find health insurance at a reasonable price.

Call your Representative in Congress using the Capitol Switchboard (202-225-3121). Let your Representative know that now is not the time to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. You expect real leadership, and the public insurance option must be an element in comprehensive health care reform. Tell him or her to support H.R. 3200 with the public insurance option.



LWVIC HAS MEMBERS ON THE 2010 CENSUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

At its last meeting the LWVIC board appointed two members to represent the LWVIC on the Indiana County Census Planning Committee. Sherene Hess and Jane Lord will be our representatives. We hope to be able to help with outreach to urge residents to answer the census questions.

It is extremely important to get an accurate count in Indiana County. The size of the population affects the funding for many local programs.

More information will be available in future newsletters.

A SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PLAN FOR PA?

Amidst the loud debate about national health care reform, several states have quietly established their own health care reform programs. In Pennsylvania, both Governor Rendell and members of the PA legislature have proposed reform plans.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is supporting a plan outlined in HB 1660 and SB 400 to set up a comprehensive single payer health care system within the state. The prime sponsors are Senator Jim Ferlo and Representative Kathy Manderino. The House Bill has 30 Democratic and 4 Republican co-sponsors. The Senate Bill has 7 Democratic co-sponsors. Both were introduced this summer and referred to committee. SB 400 remains in the Banking and Insurance Committee (chaired by Senator Don White) and HB 1660 stays in the health and Human Services Committee.

The bills would set up a Health Care Trust Fund and costs would be funded by a 3% personal income tax and a 10% payroll tax on businesses as well as funds already providing for Medicare and Medicaid, the tobacco settlement money and other already existing programs.

Visit www.healthcare4allpa.org/legislators.htm for a list of provisions and a comparison between the Governor's plan and these two bills.



WORKSHOP ON CROSS SYSTEMS TRAINING

On November 18, the Indiana County Department of Human Services will hold a workshop at their offices at 300 Indian Springs Road, Indiana, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. on how to integrate the delivery of human services for children among the various agencies that provide them.

Anyone who is interested can attend.

There is no charge, but participants must register with ICDHS.

The email address is:

icdhsdir@comcast.net

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We're on the
Web!

www.palwv.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9—Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Diane Duntley's home. All welcome

November 14— Member meeting on Marcellus Shale Study. Fire Mountain Breakfast. 9:00 am

November 18— Workshop on Cross Systems Training, 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Indiana Co. Dept. of Human Services

December 14— Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Diane Duntley's home. All welcome

January 16, 2010— Member meeting on Marcellus Shale Study. Fire Mountain Breakfast. 9:00 am

February 13—Consensus meeting—Marcellus Shale Study. Fire Mountain Breakfast—9:00 am

March 20— Family Fun Fest

NOTE: MARCELLUS SHALE MEETINGS—The discussion will start at 9:00 am. Come early for breakfast. Note the time changes.

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-465-5056 and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.