

VOTER

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



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AIR QUALITY ISSUES AND MARCELLUS SHALE GAS

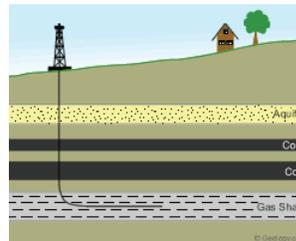
Indiana County exceeds the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PA DEP, 2009) — Consequently, we need to be concerned about additional sources of ozone and other air pollutants associated with Marcellus Shale drilling. (more on pages 2 and 3)

Marcellus Shale Meeting

The Marcellus Shale Study Committee will host a meeting on March 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 285 Twolick Drive, Indiana, PA. Speakers will discuss the impacts of drilling on water supplies and whether municipalities have the power to regulate drilling. The committee also hopes to discuss pipeline and landowner rights issues.

Brian Swistock, a water specialist from Penn State will be one of our speakers. Our other speaker will be Attorney Gary Falatovich, who will be speaking on municipal issues.

All members are invited and are encouraged to bring along a guest or two.



FAMILY FUN FAIR

The Family Fun Fair is March 14 at the Indiana Mall. the theme for the LWVIC booth will be based on the book, **Duck for President.**

The children will be able to write a letter to the President and receive "Duck for President" stickers.

Parents will be encouraged to register to vote.

If you can volunteer an hour of your time to work at the booth, contact Sherene Hess at 724-465-5056, or meet at the booth that day.

The festivities begin at 10:00 am and last until 3:00 pm—hope to see you there!

League of Women Voters of US Campaigning For DC Voting Rights

The League has a long-standing position supporting the right of residents of the District of Columbia to have voting representatives in Congress. Currently, legislation is pending in Congress that would change this. It would enlarge the House of Representatives by two seats, one for DC and one for Utah which would benefit under current law. The legislation would not affect the Senate.

The measure has passed the Senate, but now seems to be stalled in the House. LWVUS urges you to contact your US Representative and urge him/her to support passage of this bill.

The LWVUS regularly sends out Action Alerts on national issues. To receive these alerts, if you do not already do so, sign up at <https://member.lwv.org/Subscribe.asp>. For additional information, contact the LWVUS Grassroots Lobbyist Christina Vamvas at: lobbying@lwv.org.



More on Air Quality Issues and Marcellus Shale Gas

Al Armendariz (2008)* and Lisa Sumi (2008)* report the following sources of air pollution during deep gas well drilling:

- ◆ Internal combustion engine exhaust which includes compressors used to send gas through pipe lines, and truck and construction equipment engines. (Armendariz reported 100 water haulers to frac the wells and 700 truck loads to transport used water to treatment plants per well.)
- ◆ Oil and condensate tank vents (flaring)
- ◆ Production well fugitives
- ◆ Well drilling and well completions
- ◆ Natural gas processing
- ◆ Transmission fugitives.

In Texas, by 2009, emissions of smog forming compounds (NO_x and VOC) from the engine and tank point sources will be approximately 260 tons per day. The combined emissions from the engines, tanks, and the fugitive and intermittent sources will be approximately 624 tons per day, greater than the estimated emissions of many other source categories in North Central Texas, including the major airports or on-road motor vehicles (Armendariz, 2008). Sumi reports that there are rural gas producing areas in Colorado and Wyoming whose ozone levels exceed that of Los Angeles.

Proposed solutions include: 1) replacement of internal combustion engines with electric motors for compression power; 2) use of vapor recovery units on oil and condensate tanks; 3) use of compressed air pneumatic valves and devices rather than natural gas actuated valves; and 4) connection of the bleed vents to sales lines to reduce emissions when compressed air is impractical. (Armendariz, 2008)

Attention to air pollution will be essential as ozone and other air pollutants cause respiratory and other health problems and contribute to global warming.

Sources:

*Bureau of Air Quality, PA Department of Environmental Protection, (Feb. 2009), Proposed Designation Recommendations for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

*Armendariz, AI, (Sept. 30, 2008), *Emissions from Natural Gas Production in the Barnett Shale Area and Opportunities for Cost Effective Improvements*, Peer-Review Draft, report for the Environmental Defense Fund, Austin Texas (forwarded to us by the LWV of Tarrant County, Texas)

*Sumi, Lisa, (May, 2008), *Shale Gas: Focus on the Marcellus Shale*, For the Oil and Gas Accountability Project/Earthworks, www.earthworksaction.org/oil_and_gas.cfm.

MARCELLUS SHALE AND WHO OWNS IT

In Pennsylvania, ownership of a specific section of land may be divided. You may own the surface while another owns the rights to the minerals and/or gas below the surface. Sometimes the right to the minerals and/or gas below the surface includes the right to using the surface for drilling, transporting, and storing the gas.

Your deed specifies what you own. A copy of the deed is found at both the recorder of Deeds and at the Tax Assessment Office in the county courthouse.

If you own only the surface, there is little you can do about the drilling under your land, except to make sure drillers follow PA DEP rules as they explore for and extract gas. However, if you own surface and underground resources, you may find it profitable to work with a drilling company, but USE CAUTION.

You will work with a "landman," who may be working for a drilling company or for himself. In this case he will then sell the rights he has purchased from you to a drilling company. The landman may present you a lease which will represent everything the drilling company will want.

DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM

You are in a position to negotiate for certain conditions and features that serve to your advantage. The first gas lease should specify what each party agrees to during gas exploration. A second lease may be prepared later, depending on the initial findings in the exploratory lease. Because a signed lease is binding on both parties, YOU SHOULD HAVE AN ATTORNEY QUALIFIED IN GAS LEASING REVIEW IT BEFORE EITHER SIDE SIGNS.

The first lease or exploratory lease should have a "right of first refusal" clause instead of an option to renew automatically, providing the gas company the right to match a competitors offer. The attorney may point out other items you need to include and make sure the language says what you want. If you have problems later, the attorney can help resolve them.

Provisions you may want in the lease include well siting, specifying where your property may be entered, where you want gates, and what items you want to have insured. The lease also specifies the well siting fee, the gas allowance for your home, and the rent the driller will pay for storing gas on your land.

The second lease authorizes the driller to start drilling. Again, specify where on the surface you will accept the drilling rig, where roadways and gates should be and any other conditions you believe are necessary. You may state that all water used for drilling operations should be hauled onto your land and all water polluted by drilling be hauled off your property. The second lease also specifies equipment, road and gate removal. This lease states your royalty. PA law puts the minimum at 12.5%, the maximum is negotiable.

The County Agricultural Extension Office provides additional information and can direct you to law firms specializing in gas drilling and related problems.

If your land is in a program with tax exemptions, you may have to pay back taxes if you accept drilling.

A newsletter of the
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We're on the
Web!

www.palwv.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 14, 2009— Family Fun Fest. 10:00 am – 3 pm. Indiana Mall.
Theme: 110 Best Books for Children (Duck for President).**

March 16, 2009—Board Meeting—Diane Duntley's home—7:00 PM

**March 20, 2009—Marcellus Shale meeting at Mary Beth Sweeney's
home—10:00 am**

**March 23, 2009—Marcellus Shale member meeting—Unitarian Uni-
versalist Church—7:00 PM**

May 2, 2009—Annual Garage Sale—Susan McClure's garage.

May 9, 2009—Bag Sale—Susan McClure's garage.

May—LWVIC Annual Meeting

**June 5-7—LWV State Convention—Clarion Holiday Inn. Contact
Sherene if interested in going.**



*Know someone who
may be interested in
membership? Let Olga
Platt know at 724-
465-2073 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.