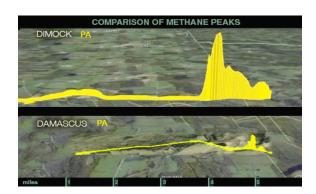
"My life has changed. I have watched so many of our animals die, that I wake up wondering which one of us is next. We have buzzards line up on our fence post and watch our house. Bedford County wants to raise our taxes, but give our land to the gas companies. I'm so tired of being sick and watching our pets die."

(Response from a DCS Natural Gas Exploration and Production Health & Community Impacts Survey - Clearville, PA - 2014)

## Dear Supporter,

DCS has been hard at work in 2014 and although the year has brought some flickers of hope, there is still a hard fight ahead for those of us who understand the cost of doing nothing. Please contribute as much as you can. With YOUR support, we can continue to keep fracking out of the Delaware River Basin, assist other areas and move to a renewed global environment. We're forging ahead with some very important programs, including Methane Baseline Testing, our NGE&P Health & Community Impacts Survey, legal actions, educating about radioactivity issues, and climate change – all to ensure no fracking in the basin for the years to come and a healthy future!

**Methane Baselines** - How many times in the past have we heard from the gas industry and our regulatory agencies that impacts clearly due to fracking are problems that "existed before gas drilling occurred" or "exist due to natural conditions"?



Comparing ambient methane concentrations in Damascus Township, PA, where no fracking has taken place with Dimock Township, PA where fracking has taken place. At the same methane measurement scale, Dimock peak maximum is 15.4ppm compared to 3.5 ppm in Damascus.

Damascus Citizens is doing something to ensure that the industry will have to take responsibility for the impacts it causes. Taking up where our regulatory agencies have failed us, DCS is spearheading municipal baseline testing in both New York and Pennsylvania. Working with Bob Ackley of GasSafety USA, one of the leading experts on fugitive methane data collection, we're using incredibly sensitive portable equipment that can get an area baseline using only public roads - and the resulting data is admissible in a court of law.

Having a record of how much methane occurs naturally *before* production, extraction, transport and storage activities take place, makes it very difficult for the industry to claim that subsequent problems are not their fault. Elevated methane emissions are everywhere gas drilling activity takes place and baselines are the industry's Kryptonite.

DCS's 2015 focus will be on the New York - Pennsylvania border towns where Gov. Cuomo could at any moment give the go-ahead where governing bodies have voted in favor of fracking despite the opposition of many in those communities.

**Health & Community Impacts Survey** - After two years of painstaking preparation, DCS's comprehensive survey to record the experiences of those living with gas drilling is underway. The surveys are being submitted to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), with the goal of creating a first ever, official national database of drilling impacts and triggering public health assessments for the hundreds of people who desperately need help.

Why hasn't anyone taken on this very important project before? We can't say, but if it takes a small grassroots organization like DCS to make it happen, you can count on us to find a way. These brave souls are speaking out to let the world know what has happened to them and they deserve our support and assistance.

Look for our Survey rack card at a location near you!

Legal Actions - led by DCS's attorney, Jeff Zimmerman, our current legal actions are:

Radon legislation and other radioactivity issues -

DCS is providing background for, and in discussions with the New York City Council and State legislators on the issue of radon in the natural gas coming from Pennsylvania. A bill researched and written by our attorney, to keep dangerous levels of radon out of homes will hopefully will be acted on this year. A "hot dinner" shouldn't mean radioactive!

In addition, we are working to prevent other forms of drilling radioactivity from being moved across state lines.

New York City Methane, Renewable Energy, and Emissions Control -

This year, DCS presented testimony to the Environmental Protection Committee on the impact of methane leaks in the city's natural gas distribution system. Consideration of a new program for 80% reduction in Greenhouse gases by 2050 including increasing the amount of renewable energy and increased building efficiency, are being prepared and provided to the committee staff. Our goal is to have a fossil fuel reduction in the **near** term rather than waiting for 2050.

<u>Methane Emissions Reduction</u> In a new bilateral accord with the Chinese, President Obama has committed the United States to cut carbon emissions levels by 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025. Focusing in on methane emissions from the oil & gas sector, the attorneys general of seven states led by New York's AG, Eric Schneiderman, have put EPA on notice that they will sue if necessary to compel EPA to regulate these methane emissions under the Clean Air Act. DCS will be working with the state AGs to support their commitment to a comprehensive regulatory program to control these methane emissions.

And DCS is ready to go back to court should New York State or the DRBC take steps to allow fracking.

## **Educating the Media -**

DCS has worked tirelessly with the press, both foreign and domestic this year. As the director of Damascus Citizens said, "If you don't know enough, you can't even ask the right questions." We want to make sure that the media asks the right questions and then actually understands the answers or evasions they get.

## **Radioactivity Waste Issues**

Rapidly increasing shale development is creating more and more solid and liquid radioactive waste. Energy companies are facing mounting challenges finding proper disposal. The irradiated matter is known as TENORM – Technologically-Enhanced, Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Material (PA, NY, OH and WV residents note: The Marcellus is 3X more radioactive than similar shale gas formations in other parts of the US. The more drilling, the more radioactive matter brought to the surface. DCS has received copies of data submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection indicating that much of the waste from gas development sites in PA is being shipped to landfills in Ohio, West Virginia and New York. To help disarm this "ticking time bomb", DCS is looking into possible legal action to stop this shell game of interstate shuttling of radioactive waste, approaching it for what it is - a bigger, regional health issue.

## **Climate Change Education**

Greenhouse gases created by natural gas extraction and use are having a negative effect on global climate. Assisted by Al Appleton, watershed/environmental resources expert, DCS has been working to inform the public and our legislators about this threat to our future and our public presentations on climate change have garnered great enthusiasm. We have testified at numerous hearings and legislators are slowly becoming educated about this issue. Even the U.S.

military has stated that climate change poses a serious risk to U.S. national security! Increased renewable energy use and efficiency (to cut use) will slow climate change. Our goal is a healthy future.

As always, we at Damascus Citizens for Sustainability hope you know how much we have appreciated your support over the years. Together, we have kept the Delaware River Basin frack free and will continue to work to protect families, communities and the environment threatened by fracking. We can only continue these important programs with your generous support.

C. Orrindell

B. Arringell Director Please make a contribution today!

USE Paypal /Credit Card via the DONATE BUTTON on www.DamascusCitizens.org

Or send a check to: DCS • P.O.Box147 • Milanville, PA 18443

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is a 501c3 tax exempt, non-profit and your contribution is fully tax deductible.

