

WHAT THE GAS COMPANIES DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW

Gas drilling is a boom-bust industry. Profits are short lived, with little money staying in the community. Large landowners who have financially benefited are likely to leave town. While some reap financial benefits, the entire community must pay for damages and to clean up a degraded environment.

Gas drilling is highly subsidized. Because of the surplus of gas in the market, gas companies cannot turn a profit without the help of your tax dollars. In fact they don't need to produce any gas/oil to turn a profit. A recent New York Times article stated that this is one of the few industries where the after-tax profit is greater than the before-tax profit.

Natural gas is not a bridge fuel: it is a non-renewable fossil fuel. Natural gas production forces our focus away from a comprehensive energy policy and diverts investment funds away from renewable energy sources.

Gas drilling is not about energy independence. Foreign companies are currently obtaining local leases, and gas is being sold on the international market.

Exemptions, deregulation, government cutbacks, and lack of accountability have undermined the ability of state and national agencies, such as the DEC and EPA, to provide adequate protection against the environmental, economic, and social abuses of natural gas development.

Get Informed ~ Get Involved ~ Speak Up!

Tell your local, state and national representatives what you think. Ask them to support legislation which restores home rule and ends the loopholes exempting gas drilling companies from the clean air, clean water and clean drinking water acts.

Talk to your neighbors. Tell them what's involved. Share this brochure with them.

Tell all who will listen what the bankers and insurance agents already know – the risks just aren't worth it.



HELP US WITH OUR WORK.

**CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR
LOCAL ANTI-FRACKING
GROUP**

For more information visit:

www.DamascusCitizens.org

DRILLING AND HYDROFRACKING FOR NATURAL GAS

What ALL New Yorkers Need to Know



- Villagers
- Unleased property owners
- Second-home owners

IT'S NOT JUST A RURAL LANDOWNER ISSUE

You Can't Drink Gas

The greatest danger in gas drilling is water pollution caused by spills and blowouts. Any contamination of ground water and aquifers is a threat to public health, agriculture, and wildlife. After a recent spill in PA, the USDA quarantined cattle that drank contaminated water, to protect the public from eating potentially harmful products. But humans are not directly protected because the gas industry is exempted from the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Your drinking water is not protected.

Air Quality Concerns

Ground level ozone and noxious chemicals from diesel-driven hydrofracking compressors and pipeline compressors have serious health consequences for people, animals and plants. For humans this includes asthma, stroke, cardiovascular disease and irritable bowel disorders.

Studies have shown that what the industry calls annoyances - noise, light and dust pollution - can also have a negative impact on human health. Brine coming out of the fractured shale contains toxic heavy metals and can be highly radioactive, yet some communities are using it for road dust control and de-icing.

Declining Property Values

Many banks deny mortgages on gas-leased properties or land *adjacent* to gas-leased properties. Insurance companies are balking at writing policies for leased parcels, since landowners can be liable for accidents related to natural gas drilling. Unmortgageable, uninsurable properties lose value.



Aruba Petroleum (Photo taken by Tim Ruggiero on his property)

Increases in Traffic

The DEC estimates between 5850 and 8905 truck trips for each well pad. Increased traffic leads to increased accidents. In other states, school bus accidents and chemical tanker spills have occurred as truck drivers try to negotiate rural roads at high speeds.

Security and Social Costs

Drilling-driven temporary population booms increase demand on police, fire and EMS, and on social services, all paid for by local tax payers. Increased gas drilling leads to increased crime.

Economics

Agricultural production, tourism and recreation contribute almost 16 times more income to the state economy than would gas drilling. But drilling / hydrofracking can negatively affect those industries.

Environmental Issues

Each drilling/fracking consumes and pollutes millions of gallons of clean water. Reduced oxygen levels, high levels of dissolved solids and pollutants negatively affect aquatic life, including fish. Most wildlife will be negatively impacted by forest fragmentation by well pads, road and pipeline building, while others may benefit (coyote). Access roads and pipelines provide openings for invasive species infestation.

Green House Gases

Methane, the principle component of natural gas, is as much as 25 times as potent as CO₂, as a greenhouse gas. Experts say that during transport, 3-5% of the methane escapes from pipelines and compressors as fugitive emissions. This leakage cancels the advantage gas offers over coal when burned.

Toxic chemicals

40,000 gallons of chemicals are used in hydrofracturing shale wells. 93% of these chemicals have adverse health effects, 60% are known carcinogens and more than 40% are endocrine disruptors.