



State of Your State **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania continues to suffer the effects of gas and oil drilling, compressor stations, gas plants and pipelines. In April of this year, a man was badly burned after a 30-inch interstate natural gas transmission pipeline exploded in Western PA, destroying his home. The explosion damaged homes a half mile away.

Since Governor Wolf was elected in November of 2015, there has been little change in the state's poor oversight of the drilling industry, and the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has had funding reduced while the gas industry receives additional subsidies.

A five year process has culminated in some significant changes to the rules governing Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry. With the approval of chapter 78/78A regulations, drillers will among other things, now have to identify public resources such as schools and playgrounds and identify old or abandoned wells that could be impacted by new drilling. If a water supply is tainted, the driller will be required to restore or replace it to federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards or pre-drilling conditions (if they were better). Storage pit rules have been strengthened and the industry will be barred from using brine for dust suppression or de-icing. These rules now have all the necessary approvals and will hopefully be put in place soon.

Unfortunately hydraulic fracturing can never be made safe by regulations, and although a step forward, new rules are meaningless without rigorous enforcement and oversight. It is the governor's job to protect the health and welfare of Pennsylvania's citizens and our environment. Without the funding to hire enough DEP inspectors and without a strong enforcement program driven by the Governor's office itself, that responsibility cannot be fulfilled.

Write Governor Wolf and tell him to restore funding to the DEP and ensure enforcement of regulations!

Governor Wolf's Office phone is: (717) 787-2500

You can email him through his website: www.governor.pa.gov/contact/

Postal mail address is:

c/o Governor Tom Wolf
501 N 3rd Street
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

* Did you know that postal letters are the most effective way to voice your concerns?

Because legislators believe people who take the time to write and mail them are more likely to vote, a regular, snail mail letter is worth 20 emails. If you feel overwhelmed at the thought of writing a letter, we'll be happy to help you. The letter must be your own words and thoughts, but we can help you put your letter together here at our office, so feel free to let us know if you want some help.

Remember - one of the only things that can affect the outcome of hydraulic fracturing is YOUR voice. When legislators hear from their constituents they listen, especially when the numbers start to mount. As with gas drilling, the cumulative impact makes all the difference.