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Savage River Watershed Association

Marcellus Shale Follow-up # 13

Upcoming Programs and Meetings:

***Economic Impacts of Gas Development
Presentations at Garrett College Thursday December 8***

CitizenShale will host a free educational event at Garrett College Auditorium on Thursday Dec 8 at 7pm. The speakers Paul Durham of Garrett County Board of Realtors and Emily Wurth of Food and Water Watch will discuss economic issues, particularly land values, land use, and jobs claims as they relate to shale gas development. Durham's talk is an opportunity for leaseholders to understand the impact of gas development on their land values, mortgage potential, and general enjoyment of land, which brings a great value to many of the properties in Western Maryland. Wurth will discuss Food and Water Watch's analysis of industry and government job claims and other economic impacts of the gas extraction industry. Visit www.citizenshale.org for more information.

Resources:

***No More Drilling in the Dark: Exposing the Hazards of Natural Gas Production and Protecting America's Drinking Water and Wildlife Habitats
By Richard Forest, Energy Specialist Published August 2011 by National Wildlife Federation***

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Global-Warming/2011/11-16-11-No-More-Drilling-in-the-Dark.aspx>

All energy development activities have environmental impacts: we should pursue those energy options that are the least damaging to human health and the environment, including habitats and wildlife. Unfortunately, natural gas exploitation is taking place today in a rushed manner, before all the safeguards have been properly put in place, including adequate inspection systems and monitoring procedures. This report provides an overview of unconventional gas drilling and the key concerns and potential threats that such drilling raises for America's land, water, air, and wildlife. It also provides a number of recommendations for addressing and reducing related environmental impacts.

Local and Regional News:

***Learning Too Late of Perils in Gas Well Leases
By Ian Urbina & Jo Craven McGinty Published in New York Times on December 1, 2011***
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/02/us/drilling-down-fighting-over-oil-and-gas-well-leases.html?_r=1&hp

After Scott Ely and his father talked with salesmen from an energy company about signing the lease allowing gas drilling on their land in northeastern Pennsylvania, he said he felt certain it required the company to leave the property as good as new. So Mr. Ely said he was surprised several years later when the drilling company, Cabot Oil and Gas, informed them that rather than draining and hauling away the toxic drilling sludge stored in large waste ponds on the property, it would leave the waste, cover it with dirt and seed the area with grass. He knew that waste pond liners can leak, seeping contaminated waste...

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Video shows fracking sites polluting air -
Going Green: Environment, energy, living green, conservation and more in Baltimore, the
Chesapeake Bay and beyond**

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/features/green/2011/11/infrared_video_shows_air_pollu.html

One of the sites filmed is a natural gas processing center in the town of Accident in Garrett County, MD. Though not directly related to the debate over hydraulic fracturing, the compressor station is often mentioned by gas industry supporters as an example of the industry's benign environmental footprint. Pelton reports that the facility reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment that it released 1,038 tons of methane in 2010, more than double the 483 tons of methane it reported releasing in 2009.

'Fracking' revenue looms large

By Greg Masters Capital News Service Published in The Daily Record November 27, 2011

<http://thedailyrecord.com/2011/11/27/'fracking'-revenue-looms-large/>

Maryland lawmakers are starting to debate how much "severance tax" should be imposed on the natural gas that might be produced from the Marcellus Shale rock formation in western Maryland. Though it is not clear when, or even whether, Maryland will allow drilling in the Marcellus Shale using the controversial gas extraction method known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," an advisory commission created by Gov. Martin O'Malley to develop recommendations is already considering potential sources of revenue for the state from natural gas production...

Officials Push for Clarity on Oil and Gas Leases

By Ian Urbina Published in New York Times on November 24, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/25/us/officials-push-for-clarity-on-oil-and-gas-leases.html?pagewanted=2&r=2&src=recg>

Federal lawmakers, bank regulators and law enforcement officials are broadening their efforts to ensure that the growing number of oil and gas leases being signed by landowners across the country comply with mortgage rules and do not create new risks for lenders, appraisers or landowners. Leases often allow certain activities, like storing hazardous waste on a property, that are expressly forbidden by mortgages because they can harm resale values. Such activities also violate rules set by institutions like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Farmer Mac, which buy mortgages from banks...

Possible Action:

Those interested in sending comments or questions to the **MD Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative Advisory Commission** may do so at: msac@mde.state.md.us

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*SRWA is a group of local landowners and other citizens dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rural nature and natural resources of the Savage River watershed by assisting interested landowners and public land managers with environmental stewardship efforts and educational outreach.*

*Board Members: Kenny Braitman, Annie Bristow, John Fritts,  
Ed Gates, Carol McDaniel, Liz McDowell, Rich Raesly, Tom Wolfe*

*SRWA is a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization. Please consider joining or making a donation.  
For more information visit our web site at [www.savageriverwatershed.org](http://www.savageriverwatershed.org)*