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Savage River Watershed Association
Marcellus Shale Follow-up #3

SRWA hopes that the following resources will help us meet the many challenges posed by this large-scale industry on our quality of life, and the health of our people and environment. Additional updates will be sent as new information becomes available.

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Upcoming Programs

**TONIGHT!**

Jan 6 - **Potential Environmental Impacts from Marcellus Shale Drilling**

Daniel Soeder, U.S. Department of Energy  
Frostburg State University, Compton Science Center, Room 226 at 7:00 pm  
Hosted by SRWA and the Frostburg Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
For more information contact SRWA Director, at 301-689-7156 or [srwadirector@gmail.com](mailto:srwadirector@gmail.com)

Jan 8 - **Pre-legislative meeting with Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel**

This will be a good opportunity to express any concerns you may have on Marcellus Shale with our elected officials.  
Garrett College Continuing Education Building at 10:00 am

Jan 13 - **Dormant Minerals Act**

Cristine Kepple, Janes & Kepple, P.A.  
Garrett College Auditorium at 7:00 pm  
For more information contact Mikal Zimmerman, Program Assistant for Community Resource and Economic Development on Marcellus Shale Education, at 301-334-6960 or [mzimmer8@umd.edu](mailto:mzimmer8@umd.edu)

Jan 17- **Excerpts from the movie Gasland with discussion led by Brent Walls, Potomac Riverkeepers**

Hampshire County Public Library at 6:00 pm.  
For more information visit <http://hampshireindependent.blogspot.com>

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Action by Local Watershed Group

On January 4, 2011 the Youghiogheny River Watershed Association board voted unanimously to support legislation requiring a moratorium on Marcellus Shale gas drilling until certain studies, baseline information, regulations, and findings have been obtained and put into place. The areas of concern include but are not limited to air quality; ground water quality; surface water; water appropriations; transport, discharge and disposal of fracking water; geologic information, and adoption of state and local regulations including bonding, permitting and monitoring.

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Testing Home Wells and Local Streams

Gas Well Drilling and Your Private Water Supply PSU Fact Sheet # 28  
<http://extension.psu.edu/water/resources/publications/water-pollutants/water-quality/gasdrilling.pdf>

Marianne Metzger of National Testing Laboratories (Toll Free: 800-458-3330 or 800-H2O-TEST / [www.ntllabs.com](http://www.ntllabs.com) ) emailed these supplemental comments to the information on well testing provided in SRWA Marcellus Shale Follow-up #2:

*I've looked into Maryland geology a bit and think the tests we are recommending will fit for Maryland as well as Pennsylvania. The very basic test we offer covers all the basic items which can readily be changed as a result of the fracking fluids being used. While the fracking fluid can be a big contributor to contamination, there are other things to consider. As with any drilling operation there are additional vehicles and machines in place which also have the potential to contaminant the groundwater, with gasoline diesel and oils. If the homeowner has opted not to test for these in the baseline and it shows up in their water after the drilling has occurred they have no proof the contamination is a result of the drilling activities. Our second package addresses the gasoline and oil which is why this is the package I commonly recommend. The third package we offer is overkill in most situation but some homeowners want to test for everything. Check out the latest article that talks about this at the following link.*

[http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/new\\_nonprofit\\_offering\\_help\\_with\\_tests\\_that\\_may\\_link\\_contaminated\\_water\\_to\\_/C35/L35/](http://www.newwest.net/topic/article/new_nonprofit_offering_help_with_tests_that_may_link_contaminated_water_to_/C35/L35/)

**ShaleTest.org** Is a Non-Profit Organization providing environmental testing services, public speaking engagements and educational materials to private individuals and groups whose lives are affected by natural gas development. Purpose: To provide environmental testing of private individuals' drinking water, air and soil, for those affected or potentially affected by natural gas development whose personal financial situations prohibit the costs of test. Additionally, to provide testing of water where drinking water is sourced (area lakes, rivers, streams and other large bodies of water), for evidence of fluids and /or chemicals associated with natural gas development. This may include the testing of potentially affected wildlife. Also, to provide educational awareness to the public of the dangers associated with natural gas development. This is to be accomplished by holding public meetings, speaking engagements, visual presentations and distribution of literature, pamphlets, books and other documents such as videos and pictures. ShaleTest.org is a new national group that has a mission: "To provide lower income and compromised individuals with environmental testing of their drinking water, air and soil that might have been impacted by natural gas development. Our testing involves analyzing and measuring these elements for the presence of natural gas development fluids or associated chemicals and compounds. We also provide the public with educational awareness to the dangers associated with natural gas development." Currently, ShaleTest has testing volunteers in Texas, Pennsylvania and Arkansas, and is recruiting in other states. Phone: (530) 237 4558 <http://shaletest.org>

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Recent News Releases and Web Links Reference Marcellus Shale

WATER POLLUTION: Pa., Cabot reaches settlement over methane contamination (Thursday, December 16, 2010)

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. will pay \$4.1 million to 19 families affected by methane contamination in what Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger called the strongest financial settlement the department has ever obtained for families affected by environmental damage. In exchange for Cabot's cooperation, in which each Dimock Township, Pa., family will receive twice the value of their home, the department is halting a plan to build a 12.5-mile waterline to supply the residents with uncontaminated water. Cabot will also pay the department \$500,000 for its investigation into the contamination, according to a settlement announced yesterday. Finally, Cabot will offer and pay for whole-house gas mitigation devices for each affected home. "The 19 families in Dimock who have been living under very difficult

conditions for far too long will receive a financial settlement that will allow them to address their own circumstances in their own way," Hanger said. Some families, though, had been looking forward to the new waterline, which would have been paid for out of public funds. The state environment department has been investigating methane contamination in the residences' wells since January 2009 and traced it back to Cabot's operations. The company has denied that it is the source. Cabot will be allowed to resume its drilling operations and plans to start up hydraulic fracturing again in the first quarter of 2011. Families will also be allowed to continue their lawsuit against Cabot alleging health and property damage (Laura Legere, Scranton [Pa.] Times Tribune, Dec. 16). -- AP

Experts challenge safety of exploratory wells, vertical drilling

<http://www.propublica.org/article/beyond-fracking-experts-challenge-safety-of-exploratory-wells-vertical-drill>

PA allows dumping of tainted waters from gas boom

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11004/1115432-454.stm>

Remote water monitors for Susquehanna baseline

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20101208/NEWS01/12080400/Water+monitoring+systems+placed+in+the+Susquehanna+basin>

Water is a critical component of the process of removing natural gas from underground shale rock formations

<http://extension.psu.edu/water/resources/publications/consumption-and-usage/marcelluswater.pdf/view>

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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, Mike Dean, John Fritts, Ed Gates, Carol McDaniel, Liz McDowell, Rich Raesly, Matt Sell, 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)*