

10 Reasons Why You Need to Be Concerned:

1. Declining Property Values

Most banks and insurance companies consider gas-leased properties to be an unacceptable risk. Many loan companies have policies which deny mortgages on those properties which have been leased. Insurance companies are balking at writing policies for leased parcels, as landowners can be liable for accidents related to natural gas drilling.

Drilling will eventually depreciate the value of not only your residence, but of investment parcels as well. If you are considering selling your property, you must ask, "Will I be able to find a buyer who is willing and able to pay cash?"

2. Toxic Chemicals

Gas companies say that frack fluid is 99% water but that equates to 7,500 gallons of chemicals used for every well drilled. According to experts, 93% of these chemicals have adverse health effects, 60% are known carcinogens and more than 40% are endocrine disruptors.

3. You Can't Drink Gas

The greatest and most widespread harm seen in gas drilling is toxic chemical pollution caused by spills. 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 in an effort to protect the public from consuming 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.



Aruba Petroleum (Photo: Tim Ruggiero)

4. Air Quality Concerns

Ground level ozone and noxious chemicals can have serious health consequences on people, animals and plants. For humans this includes asthma, stroke, cardio-vascular disease and irritable bowel disorders.

Methane, the principal component of natural gas, is as much as 25 times as potent as CO₂. Experts say that during transport, 3-5% of the methane escapes from pipelines and compressors as fugitive emissions.

5. Health Effect From Other Pollutants

Studies have shown that what the industry calls annoyances - noise, light and dust pollution - can also have a negative impact on health.

Brine from drilling can contain heavy metals and be highly radioactive, yet some communities are using this as a road de-icer.

6. Increases in Traffic

The DEC estimates between 5850 and 8905 truck trips for each well pad. Increases in traffic lead to increases in traffic accidents. School bus accidents and chemical tanker spills have occurred in other communities as truck drivers try to negotiate rural roads at high speeds.

7. Gas Pads Not Limited to Countryside

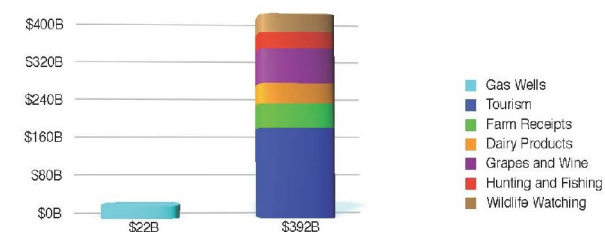
Wells have been drilled near suburban homes, churches, schools, parks and even in city centers. Even the dead can't rest in peace as cemeteries are not off limits to drilling activity.

8. Security and Social Costs

Drilling-driven temporary population booms increase demand on police, fire and EMS, and social services, all paid for by local tax payers. Studies have shown that as gas drilling increases in an area, so too does the crime rate.

9. Economics

Gas production is slated for much of New York's food producing regions. Yet, agricultural production, tourism and recreation contribute more income to the state economy than the proposed income from gas drilling.



Source: John Schwartz

10. Environmental Issues

Gas activities draw heavily on fresh water reserves. Reduced oxygen levels, high levels of dissolved solids and pollutants negatively affect aquatic life, including fish.

Many species of birds and wildlife are negatively impacted by forest fragmentation, while others may benefit (coyote). Unfortunately this creates an imbalance in the ecosystem. While some species may be lost as an unintended cost of drilling, other species may arrive. Access roads and pipelines provide openings for invasive species infestation.

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 and 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 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 government's focus away from a comprehensive energy policy and diverts investment funds away from developing renewable energy sources. It does not promote conservation.

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 government agencies, such as the DEC and EPA, to provide adequate protection against the environmental, economic, and social abuses of natural gas development.

Amy Mall of NRDC writes:

How Toxic Are Fracturing Fluids?

In April of this year, 17 cows died in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, after apparently drinking fluid that had spilled from a nearby natural gas wellpad. The local sheriff's office, although the designated first responder, was not notified and found out from community residents. It was therefore several hours after the cattle deaths were found before the Caddo Parish hazmat team was dispatched.

At the time of the accident, the well in question was being hydraulically fractured. At the site were two companies involved in the hydraulic fracturing: Superior Well Services and Schlumberger. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is still investigating this case, but according to a letter from Chesapeake Energy, the natural gas operator that owns the well: "During a routine well stimulation / formation fracturing operation by Schlumberger for Chesapeake, it was observed that a portion of mixed 'frac' fluids, composed of over 99 percent freshwater, leaked from vessels and/or piping onto the well pad."

This means that less than one percent of the fluid that leaked consisted of additives to the water. Yet it appears that **the fluid was toxic enough to kill cows almost immediately upon drinking.** Chesapeake's letter also states that it did not report the spill because it was not a reportable quantity of fluid. **Does something sound wrong about this to you? It was enough to kill 17 head of cattle, but not enough to warrant reporting to the authorities.**

Industry says that: "On average, 99.5% of fracturing fluids are comprised of freshwater ..." and "Other ingredients in fracturing fluid could affect your health if you were exposed to them in high enough quantities. However the concentration of these elements is far below the levels necessary to pose a threat."

Does this make YOU feel safe???

The MYTH of "Clean" Natural Gas

What ALL New Yorkers Should Know

Those living in small rural villages and those living in large urban cities will all be impacted by this industrial activity.
It's NOT just a rural landowner issue.



Photo by Keith Hodan: Gas well fire in Moundsville, WV, 6-8-2010

Get Informed ~ Get Involved Speak Out !!!

Tell your local, state and national representatives what you think. Ask them to support a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. Ask them to support legislation which restores home rule. Ask them to put an end to the loopholes exempting gas drilling 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.

For more information visit:

www.NYRAD.org