

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2017

DEP NERO DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Testimony for Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline - 102 & 105 permits

Dear Department of Environmental Protection,

Thank you for taking the time to hear my comments.

As a resident of Susquehanna County, I oppose the building and operation of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline.

The natural gas that will supply this pipeline starts its journey beneath my feet in Susquehanna County. The demand for gas that it creates will increase the number of hydraulically fractured wells, compressors, dehydrators and pipelines in my rural community that is unprotected by zoning. Several recent public health studies show correlations between natural gas extraction in Pennsylvania and significant health impacts to residents. In other words – and I can't emphasize this enough – natural gas extraction is already harming the health of my neighbors, family, and friends. Allow me to cite a few studies:

A published, peer-reviewed paper by the University of Pittsburgh and Columbia University compared public health records for Wayne County, where there is no fracking, to my county (Susquehanna) and to Bradford County. They found that there were significantly more hospitalizations per capita in both my county and Bradford County when compared to Wayne County, since 2007 when fracking began in this region. The paper's authors attributed the new hospitalizations to natural gas extraction, particularly cardiac issues from the increase in airborne particulate matter from diesel engines. This issue is extremely pertinent to my 67-year-old father and I, who have watched thousands of diesel trucks pass our home to access gas wells on our neighbor's land.

If that doesn't chill everyone in this room to the bone, perhaps this will. A second study funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation and published in the *Journal of Environmental Protection* shows that since fracking began, the number of infant deaths in the first 28 days of life rose 29% in 10 heavily-fracked Pennsylvania (that includes this county, by the way). During the same time, infant deaths in the rest of the state dropped 2%.

A third study that took place in southwestern Pennsylvania agreed – it linked low birth weights and babies that are small for their gestational age to their mother's proximity to natural gas wells.

And I'm not even including the data on <sup>likely</sup> compressor stations, which will be scattered along the length of this pipeline where they will emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. These VOCs have been linked to eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, fatigue, loss of coordination, allergic skin reaction, nausea, memory impairment, loss of coordination, liver, kidney and central nervous system damage, and cancer.

I want to emphasize that two of the three studies I just cited used public health data from **my county since fracking began there. I'm not speculating about the future.** The emissions from fracking are hurting the cardiovascular systems of my family, my neighbors and my friends **right now**, even as I make this testimony. The babies born to some of my friends and neighbors this year will weigh less and be more prone to cancer and other illnesses thanks to the fracked gas extraction in my county. ~~The residents of northeastern Pennsylvania are the canaries in the coal mine, or rather, the fracked gas well.~~ And that is why I cannot support the outbuilding of any infrastructure that will support this industry.

I would like to close by reminding the DEP that one of the rights of a Pennsylvania citizen, specifically detailed in Article 1, Paragraph 27 of the Commonwealth's Constitution, is the right "to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment." My township and my county have been unable or unwilling to guarantee me this right – perhaps the state will.

Sincerely,

some folks support this industry because it has potential to create jobs, but I choose human health over jobs.

Kelly Finan  
4450 State Route 2002  
Hop Bottom PA 18824

Sources:

Goetz, et al., "Atmospheric Emission Characterization of Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Development Sites" *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*,  
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.5b00452>

Bond, T. C.; Wehner, B.; Plewka, A.; Wiedensohler, A.; Heintzenberg, J.; Charlson, R. J. Climate-relevant properties of primary particulate emissions from oil and natural gas combustion. *Atmos. Environ.* 2006, 40 ( 19), 3574– 3587, DOI:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2005.12.030>.

Oberdörster, G. "Pulmonary effects of inhaled ultrafine particles" *Int Arch Occup Environ Health* (2000) 74: 1. doi:10.1007/s004200000185  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s004200000185>

Palmgren, F., Wåhlin, P., Kildeso, J., Afshari, A., Fogh, C.L., (2003). Characterisation of particle emissions from the driving car fleet and the contribution to ambient and indoor particle concentrations. *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, 28 (2003) 327-334

V. Howard (2009). "Statement of Evidence: Particulate Emissions and Health (An Bord Plenala, on Proposed Ringaskiddy Waste-to-Energy Facility)." (PDF). Durham Environment Watch. Retrieved 2011-04-26.

Jemielita, T., et al. Unconventional Gas and Oil Drilling Is Associated with Increased Hospital Utilization Rates. <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0131093#pone-0131093-g003>

Stacy, S. Perinatal Outcomes and Unconventional Natural Gas Operations in Southwest Pennsylvania. <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0126425>

Mangano, J. New Report Shows High Disease and Death Rates in Areas Of Penn. With High Fracking. <http://radiation.org/new-report-shows-high-disease-and-death-rates-in-areas-of-penn-with-high-fracking/>

Southwest PA Environmental Health Project *Summary on Compressor Stations and Health Impacts*: <http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/files/Summary%20Compressor-station-emissions-and-health-impacts-02.24.2015.pdf>