

Cooper, Kathy

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From: Patrick Walker [pjwalkerzorro@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 11:50 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comments of Patrick Walker

I must state in no uncertain terms my belief that regulation at this point offers us no viable safeguards against a technology about which too little is yet known, and which is being deployed far too fast for PA's DEP, actually facing budget cuts, to catch up. I find it criminally insane that DEP's ability to hire inspectors depends on fees from permits; it's rather like agreeing with Godzilla that your right to restrain him depends on first making him vastly stronger.

Needless to say, I also find gas drillers' exemption from EPA oversight under the "Halliburton loophole" a criminally insane weakening of our protections--and an even firmer argument for a moratorium.

Our only safety lies in a moratorium--ASAP. If we must rely on regulation, the regulation should be so stringent (for now) as to make fracking cost prohibitive and nearly impossible. Given the extreme power and danger of this technology, its projected rapid expansion, and the numerous violations by drillers--over 1,400 since 2008, over 900 with environmental bearing--nothing but a moratorium is ethically or constitutionally thinkable. (See PA Constitution, Article 1, Section 27.)

Also, even if this isn't related to strictly environmental concerns, I must register my disgust as a free citizen that a technology with so many community-changing negative spillover effects was imposed on most of us without our consent being either asked nor given. On the scale planned, this amounts to a totalitarian makeover of our state. In light of these beliefs, my wife and I are contacting numerous New York and Philadelphia lawyers specializing in class-action and nuisance lawsuits; one has already indicated interest. We plan to JUST SAY NO to our legislators' unjust and unconstitutional trampling of our rights.

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