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FracTracker Releases Six New Maps Detailing the Petrochemical Build-out in the Ohio River Valley

Pittsburgh, PA - FracTracker Alliance released six new maps using over 16,000 data points. The maps reveal the vast network of natural gas and petrochemical infrastructure currently in the Ohio River Valley, as well as proposed facilities and storage sites that connect to petrochemical processing. FracTracker's accompanying analysis, found [here](#), provides in-depth context to this nascent buildout that threatens to turn the Ohio River Valley region into a massive petrochemical hub.

Within a 65-county border spanning from Pittsburgh to Kentucky, FracTracker found the following proposed and existing facilities related to petrochemical production:

- 12,507 unconventional wells,
- 153 wastewater injection wells,
- 29 petroleum and natural gas power plants,
- 10 pumping stations,
- 645 compressor stations,
- 21 gas processing plants,
- 46 petroleum terminals,
- 3 oil refineries,
- 2 petroleum ports,
- 3,012 gas storage wells,
- 46 gas storage facilities,
- underground storage caverns
- and 61 plastic, paint, fertilizer, and chemical manufacturers

The infrastructure in question will be used to produce plastic and other petrochemical products. As the world turns away from single use plastics, the Ohio River Valley seeks to increase production using natural gas liquids from hydraulically fracked wells. This move is antithetical to

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local and global sustainability efforts. Many residents of the Ohio River Valley are concerned that the buildout would exacerbate proven health issues and lock in dangerously high levels of greenhouse gas emissions for decades.

The United States' first petrochemical hub, located in the Gulf Coast, has become known as "Cancer Alley," because of the extremely high risk of cancer in heavily impacted areas in southern Louisiana, as well as widespread environmental degradation and little economic benefit for the vast majority of residents.

With mounting economic, environmental, and health concerns related to natural gas exploitation via hydraulic fracturing, many groups in Appalachia seek to disprove the myth that communities must sacrifice their health and natural resources for economic growth. Unfortunately, the Gulf Coast serves as a sobering testament of the many ills inflicted on communities by the petrochemical industry.

Follow this link to explore and download FrackTracker's maps and read an in-depth analysis: <https://www.fracktracker.org/2019/07/the-petrochemical-buildout-ohio-river/>

"Regulatory agencies approve oil and gas infrastructure one facility at a time, whether it is a well pad, storage facility, pipeline, or ethane cracker. The truth is that they are all connected, and the cumulative impact on the upper Ohio River Valley has been colossal, and it is poised to get worse." - Matt Kelso, FracTracker Manager of Data and Technology

"Constructing these maps was a powerful reminder of just how exploited the region is for corporate gain. The recent petrochemical development builds upon a long legacy of polluting, extractive industries in the region, taking advantage of lax regulations and large government subsidies. Transitioning Appalachia away from fossil fuels will not only protect the local environment, it will also address the global crises of climate change and plastic pollution." - Erica Jackson, Community Outreach & Communications Specialist

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