



For Immediate Release  
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**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Releases New Hydraulic Fracturing Reports  
*Experts Examine Impacts of Fracking on Health and Economics in Pennsylvania  
Webinar Tonight May 13, 6:30 pm***

*Bristol, PA* – Two new reports are being issued today by Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) examining the impacts of unconventional gas drilling (employing hydraulic fracturing or “fracking”) in Pennsylvania. The commissioned reports are entitled “Categorical Review of Health Reports on Unconventional Oil and Gas Development; Impacts in Pennsylvania”, authored by Fractracker Alliance (linked here: <https://bit.ly/30kqe4u>) and “The Economic Costs of Fracking in Pennsylvania”, authored by ECONorthwest (linked here: <https://bit.ly/2JCO7yz>).

Delaware Riverkeeper Network will present the reports at upcoming forums in locations in Pennsylvania. **The first will be a webinar on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 pm**, accessed through registration at <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/webinar-reports-health-and-economic-impacts-fracking-pennsylvania>. Authors of the reports will participate in the webinar’s question and answer session. The reports will be made available to webinar participants.

“Fracking is heavily impacting Pennsylvania in multiple ways but the burden is not being fairly and openly calculated. These reports reveal the health effects and economic costs of fracking and the astounding burdens people and communities are carrying,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

“The true impacts of fracking are often obscured by special interests or set aside as too difficult to measure. Delaware Riverkeeper Network considers it vitally important that the health effects and economic realities of fracking be openly and thoroughly discussed by the public, based on expert analysis. We commissioned these reports to shine the light of day on the real, unvarnished story in Pennsylvania, to advance understanding of the costs of fracking and who is paying the price,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

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"The FracTracker Alliance conducted a review of the literature studying the impact of unconventional oil and gas on health. Findings of this review show a dramatic increase in the breadth and volume of literature published since 2016, with 89% of the literature reporting that drilling proximity has human health effects. Pennsylvanian communities were the most studied sample populations with 49% of reviewed journal articles focused on Marcellus Shale development. These studies showed health impacts including cancer, infant mortality, depression, pneumonia, asthma, skin-related hospitalizations, and other general health symptoms were correlated with living near unconventional oil and gas development for Pennsylvania and other frontline communities," said Kyle Ferrar, Western Program Coordinator and one of authors of the FracTracker Alliance report.

"Fracking wells have an extensive presence across Pennsylvania's landscape – 20 percent of residents live within 2 miles of a well. This is close enough to cause adverse health outcomes. Collectively we found annual costs of current fracking activity over \$1 billion, with cumulative costs given continued fracking activity over the next 20 years of over \$50 billion in net present value for the effects that we can monetize. The regional economic benefits also seem to be less than stated, as the long-term benefits for local economies are quite low, and can disrupt more sustainable and beneficial economic trajectories that might not be available after a community has embraced fracking," said Mark Buckley, Senior Economist at the natural resource practice at ECONorthwest.

The forums are scheduled for:

**Wednesday, May 22**

6:30-8:30 pm - Lycoming College, Heim Science Building, Room G-11, Williamsport, PA. Local sponsors: Responsible Drilling Alliance/Keep It Wild, Clean Water Institute.

**Thursday, May 23**

6:30-8:30 pm - Convocation Center, North Wing, California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA. Local sponsors: SWPA Environmental Health Project, Mountain Watershed Association, Center for Coalfield Justice.

Other forums will be held in the coming weeks.

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