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PRIZIO, FITZGERALD ANNOUNCE CRITICAL OIL & GAS LEASE DATA TO BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

December 4, 2019, Pittsburgh - Allegheny County Council Member Anita Prizio announced today that the county government's Real Estate Division will provide public access to digital data regarding parcels subject to oil and gas leases in the county. The Division halted the practice of indexing the documents by parcel number in 2010 under the previous administration, resulting in a significant gap in available data related to the location of oil and gas leasing. The Councilwoman worked with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and members of the administration on the plan to make this information available again.

In 2016, FracTracker Alliance uncovered 22,000 lease actions in 117 different municipalities, but were unable to map most of the lease documents after 2010. A lack of access to critical data during the peak years of the Marcellus Shale development boom has left residents unaware of impending impacts of oil and gas development to their private property and surrounding environment.

FracTracker Alliance worked with [West Arete](#) on the [Allegheny County Lease Mapping Project](#) to obtain oil and gas lease data from the [Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds](#) and match them with parcel data.

County Council Member Anita Prizio was made aware of the insufficient data situation. FracTracker advised the Councilwoman to create a lease registry, where oil and gas companies doing business in the county would be required to submit their leased parcels to a publicly available database hosted by the county. The county did not institute that solution at this time, but they have made positive steps towards data transparency by deciding to fill in the missing data at the Recorder of Deeds website.

Once this data is complete, it will be possible for those with advanced skills and resources to obtain and make use of the Recorder of Deeds website to understand what the future impacts to the county from oil and gas operations are likely to be.