

For Immediate Release  
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## **Shale Gas Outrage September 24 to 26<sup>th</sup> Kicks Off**

### ***65 Organizations Pitch in for Water Drive;***

#### ***The days ahead hold press conference, water truck send-off and conference***

*Philadelphia, PA* – On Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon, jugs of water and donations will begin to flow into the hands of groups who are collecting water to give to Pennsylvania residents whose water has been polluted by gas drilling. People will drop off jugs of drinking water and checks to buy clean water at the Arch Street United Methodist Church, 55 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia PA.

The Water Drive will continue through to Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. Trucks will be loaded that morning to deliver the water to families in counties where their well water is not drinkable because of pollution caused gas drilling operations, and will be given a rousing send off at a press conference at 9:30 a.m. at the Church.

Water wells throughout gas extraction regions in the state have been contaminated by drilling. PA Department of Environmental Protection admits to 161 cases of private water well contamination as a result of gas drilling operations between 2008 and September 2012. That number – already a year old -- refers to contamination incidents, not individual wells or the number of families impacted. Many people whose wells have been contaminated have been left to their own devices to replace their water. Replacing water for a family of four can cost in the neighborhood of \$12,000 in the first year alone -- a cost that is difficult, and for many, impossible, to bear.

In an effort to help these neighbors in impacted communities across the state, water drives are being organized to do what the industry responsible for the contamination and the government failed to do -- get people the clean water they need.

The Shale Gas Outrage Water Drive is being held directly across the street from the Pennsylvania Convention Center where industry insiders are celebrating their annual Marcellus Shale Insight get-together on the same days, in view of conference goers. The public is invited to donate water and funds at the Church from noon to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday; 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday; and up until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

Shale Gas Outrage will illustrate very publicly that people will step up to replace the clean water that gas drilling took away; but the industry will be held accountable for the pollution they have caused. “The True Cost of Fracking”, an examination of gas extraction and its complex infrastructure, will be the subject of the Freedom from Fracking conference to be held on Thursday September 26, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Friends Center a few blocks away. This event will close out the third annual Shale Gas Outrage.

“This year's Shale Gas Outrage Water Drive and Freedom from Fracking conference are shining a light on the true costs of fracking. They are the entries you'll never see on a balance sheet because they're not numbers. They're stories of individuals, families, even entire communities everywhere fracking is being done. They're real life accounts everyone needs and deserves to hear,” said **Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth.**

**Iris Marie Bloom, Director, Protecting Our Waters,** said, “With flaring 500 feet from children's schools, hundreds of cases of poisoned water, and families being silenced by gag orders when their air, water and health are impacted -- and with the climate crisis at 5 minutes to midnight -- we are here to say 'stop fracking now!' We don't have to be back here next year getting more clean water for people impacted by this extreme extraction!”

**Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, representing Delaware Riverkeeper Network,** said, "It is morally wrong that in the pursuit of more dirty fossil fuel energy, industrial profits, and political jockeying, real people are losing their access to clean water. This week we're collecting and will send water to Pennsylvania people and families who have lost their drinking water to the gas industry. Tomorrow it could be our neighbors to the north, south or east collecting and sending water to us here in Philadelphia and the Delaware River Watershed if drilling gets allowed. It is time to draw a line in the sand – and for all people to band together in defense of one another to say it is time to stop the fracking and drilling in every watershed and every community.”

"With the gas drilling industry and our elected officials failing to step in and protect families from toxic drinking water due to fracking, people from across the Commonwealth have had to do so. We hope one day clean water drives like this one will no longer be necessary—but that will take significant shift in state policy," stated **Adam Garber, Field Director, PennEnvironment.**

“The shale gas industry in Pennsylvania is run amok, and regulators are not enforcing even the minimal rules we have on the books to protect air quality and public health. While the industry touts shale gas as a clean-burning fossil fuel, every stage of

shale gas extraction emits harmful air pollution. Clean Air Council stands in solidarity with local leaders in shale-field areas working to take back their quality of life from the impacts of the shale gas industry. The Freedom from Fracking Conference this Thursday will provide an opportunity for leaders from rural Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia area to learn and strategize together on how to tackle fracking related pollution,” said **Matt Walker, Community Outreach Director with Clean Air Council.**

Shale Gas Outrage is a community effort supported by organizations and members of the public. The mission statement is: **Shale gas development contaminates our communities' air and water, harming human health and living ecosystems. It distracts us from taking the immediate steps essential to curb climate change. Building a thriving economy requires us to create green jobs, develop sustainable energy, and ensure a healthy environment. Therefore, we are committed to stopping fracking now, including maintaining and expanding each moratorium and ban already established. We are also committed to fighting for justice in place of the unacceptable and unequal burdens imposed by the shale gas industry upon vulnerable populations and future generations.**

For more information about Shale Gas Outrage, the Water Drive and the Freedom from Fracking 3 Conference go to: <http://shalegasoutrage.wordpress.com/>

For background information on these issues that Shale Gas Outrage is addressing go to: <http://shalegasoutrage.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/backgrounder-final-9-23-13.pdf>

**Sponsors** of Shale Gas Outrage Water Drive and Freedom from Fracking 3 Conference September 24-26, 2013 are, in alphabetical order:

[Berks Gas Truth](#)  
[Clean Air Council](#)  
[Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#)  
[PennEnvironment](#)  
[Protecting Our Waters](#)

**Endorsers** of this year's Shale Gas Outrage events are, in alphabetical order:

[350 Berks & Lehigh Valley Climate Action](#)  
[350NJ](#)  
[Allegheny Defense Project](#)  
[Athens County Fracking Action Network](#)  
[Arlington TX Barnett Shale Blogger](#)  
[Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy](#)  
[Catskill Mountainkeeper](#)  
[Center for Biological Diversity](#)  
[Clean Water Action](#)  
[Clean Water Action \(Central PA\)](#)  
[CWA Local 1081](#)  
[Defenders of the Earth Outreach Mission](#)  
[Don't Frack Roaming Shores Village, Ohio](#)

[Earthworks](#)  
[Endless Mountains Earth First!](#)  
[Environeers](#)  
[Food & Water Watch](#)  
[Frack Free Catskills](#)  
[Fracking in Northeast Pennsylvania](#)  
[Fracking Truth Alliance of Lawrence and Mercer Counties](#)  
[Fresh Water Accountability Project Ohio](#)  
[Freshlife, Inc.](#)  
[The Front Yard Farmer, LLC](#)  
[Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition](#)  
[Gas Truth of Central PA](#)  
[Gasland](#)  
[Genesis Farm](#)  
[Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice](#)  
[Green Party Of Delaware County](#)  
[Green Party of Pennsylvania](#)  
[Greenpeace](#)  
[HoCo Climate Change](#)  
[Hudson Valley Earth First!](#)  
[Lehigh Valley Gas Truth](#)  
[Marcellus Outreach Butler](#)  
[Marcellus Protest](#)  
[Marcellus Shale Earth First! Network](#)  
[Mountain Watershed Association](#)  
[North Jersey Public Policy Network](#)  
Northeast Philly for Peace and Justice  
[Pascack Sustainability Group](#)  
[Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens](#)  
[Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air](#)  
[Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals](#)  
[Pennsylvania Federation BMWED – Teamsters](#)  
[Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia](#)  
[Public Citizen](#)  
[Responsible Drilling Alliance](#)  
[Sane Energy Project](#)  
[Save Our Streams PA](#)  
[Shale Justice](#)  
[The Shalom Center](#)  
[Sierra Club, New Jersey Chapter](#)  
[Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter](#)  
[Stop Fracking PA!](#)  
[Swarthmore Mountain Justice](#)  
[Tour de Frack](#)  
[TripleDivideFilm.org \(Melissa Troutman and Joshua Pribanic\)](#)  
[United for Action](#)  
[United Sludge Free Alliance](#)

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