

Press Statement:

For Immediate Release:

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Governor Shaperio, direct the DEP to improve its regulations by increasing the distance between waters of the Commonwealth and fracking operations.

In November, Governor Josh Shapiro made a deal with CNX Resources Corporation to voluntarily reduce pollution and ensure the health and safety of the communities in which they work. Well, Governor Shapiro, our constitution and current regulations mandate they do this *now*, but they don't. What confidence do we have that this leopard will change its spots now? And what about all the other operators that you did not negotiate with?

In Governor Shapiro's [November 2nd press release](#) he told Pennsylvanians that *he would deliver on his promise to secure protections for their health and safety*. This is why we are outside DEP Southwest Regional Office today and why this morning our friends from Clean Air Council and Center for Coalfield Justice delivered a sign on letter to the Governor's office demanding that Governor Shapiro take action **today** by increasing the distance between fracking operations and our waterways. **Governor Shapiro, you have the power to direct the DEP to improve its regulations by increasing the distance between waters of the Commonwealth and fracking operations.**

Even though in PA we have a constitutional right to clean air and water, our waterways are put in danger by this industry daily from spills and releases, frackouts, casing failures, truck accidents, and numerous other instances of operator negligence leading to hundreds of violations. The Waters of the Commonwealth and private drinking water sources have been polluted.

Communities have tried to negotiate in good faith with industry before. We have asked again and again at conferences with DEP and operators and at local hearings. And look where we are now. How many more times can we ask for the protections of our basic right to health and safety?

We can't wait for our legislators, who are lobbied every day to work in the interest of this industry. Governor Shapiro, we, as Pennsylvanians, are desperate and need to be able to count on you to protect us.

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About Protect PT: *Protect Penn-Trafford is a citizen's group working to ensure the safety, security, and quality of life from the effects of unconventional gas development in Penn-Trafford and surrounding communities in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties. Learn more at protectpt.org.*