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Fall



#Season Of Giving

Protect PT Progress
Fall'22 Edition

#CutMethane

This fall Protect PT joined advocates from environmental justice, public health, and frontline community groups to host a press conference as part of a nationwide day of action to call on President Biden to cut methane pollution from the oil and gas industry. Protect PT's Director, Gillian Graber spoke at the press conference to urge the EPA to swiftly make the changes needed to cut methane emissions for the health of people in our community. This proposal represents an important step forward and includes important safeguards, like phasing out intentionally-polluting equipment by requiring zero emitting pneumatic controllers. Still, it does not go far enough to address pollution from unlit flares or require frequent enough inspections of covered sources. The

landscape in Pennsylvania is one where tens of thousands of smaller oil and gas wells with leak-prone equipment dot the landscape and which presently do not undergo any sort of regular leak detection and repair (LDAR). This is why we need the EPA to step in and promulgate a rule for existing sources of oil and gas industry pollution. The proposed rule by EPA would cut methane pollution and other harmful chemicals that the lungs of our community breathe every day.



PA DEP Leachate Evaporator Hearing in Rostraver

At the end of August, there were DEP hearings to receive public comment on an air quality permit that would allow for the construction and operation of a Leachate Evaporation System onsite. Many residents showed up to the in-person and virtual hearings to participate in this public comment period. We are still waiting to hear back about the DEP's decision, but we hope that they listen to the community and do not permit the new system. Protect PT will continue to do air monitoring around the Landfill and participants of the HealthWatch program are set to receive a quarterly report from the Environmental Health Project of the air quality around their homes this month.



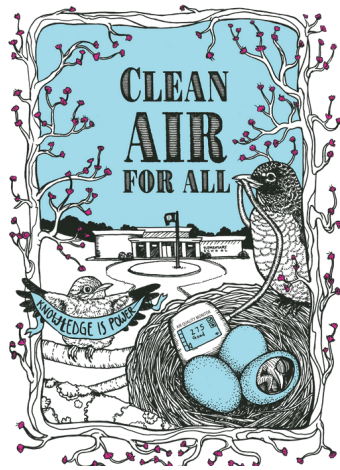
Upcoming Events

- Hermes Well Pad Hearing: Wednesday, December 7th, Murrys ville Municipal Building, 7pm.
- Tell PT to update the ordinance at the Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting: December 14th & 21st, 7pm
- Protect PT's Holiday Party: Friday, December 16th, Devout Brewing Company, 5:30 to 8:30pm

Protect PT Awarded EPA Air Monitoring Grant

This fall the EPA awarded us \$365,887 for our project, *Clean Air for All: Knowledge is Power* to expand our air monitoring efforts in three locations: The Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL), the Monessen Coke Plant, and the Penneco fracking waste injection well in Plum, PA. “These locations have seen a significant increase in air pollution which impacts the surrounding community’s health and quality of life. By offering these communities environmental monitoring, pollution reporting tools, and air quality education, the community can take back it’s power from industry. We offer air monitoring in other locations also.

To request air monitoring around these and other types of industrial and shale gas infrastructure, contact our environmental science team at envirosience@protectpt.org



New Infrastructure

Due to increasing gas prices and global events, we have seen a surge of new oil and gas infrastructure proposed with local municipalities and PA DEP. Our communities are asked to sacrifice our health and peace of mind so large corporations can ship their product overseas while devastating our homes and neighborhoods. Residents need to stay vigilant for signs of new infrastructure. These signs include the landman coming to your door, well surveys in the mail, legal notices in the local paper for upcoming hearings and signing up for ENotice (a subscription service with PA DEP). By doing these things, residents have a chance to voice their concerns. Protect PT’s small but mighty staff has been working tirelessly to help neighboring communities and stakeholders here at home to oppose any development that would pose harm. But we can’t do it alone and you shouldn’t have to either. If you know of a new development happening in your area, we can help. Give us a call!



Metis well pad during fracking in PT photo courtesy of Ted Auch at FracTracker

ReImagine Turtle Creek Progress

We launched our Native Urban Garden Stewardship Program (NUGS) in August, an initiative to create a biodiverse network of backyard habitats by supplying materials, resources, and education in underserved communities. NUGS will be running a pilot program with 2 gardeners in 2023. Our backyard food systems garden program has graduated 6 gardeners this fall and the application is open for 2023 gardeners. We’ve also been having fun with classes, learning about foraging basics and going on a fall hike to see firsthand how abandoned spaces can be transformed back into a natural green space.



Community Members learned foraging basics at a recent TCWAC Workshop in Murrysville.

Visit reimaginetcwac.org for more info.

Updating the Penn Township Ordinance

Many who live in Penn Township are getting to know all too well why Protect PT has been fighting shale gas development for nine years. With new gas wells popping up on local roads, residents have complained about noise, light, and quality of life impacts. Meanwhile, the operators are dumping drilling waste on roads with high amounts of chemical compounds like arsenic, aluminum, strontium, manganese and other heavy metals like the recent incident at the Metis well pad on Harrison City - Export Road. In order to add more protections to the community, we have been working hard on revising the Penn Township Oil and Gas Ordinance for Unconventional Drilling or Fracking. We have completed what we consider an ideal update, with many necessary protections for our residents and our Township. This update would relieve the community of the burden of this heavy operation, and put that financial and safety burden on the operator. If you agree that Penn Township needs these important protections, please call or email your council person, and attend the meetings every second and third Wednesday of each month, and sign our petition! Find out more and get your yard sign on our website: protectpt.org/ordinance



Legal Advocacy

Legal empowerment is one of the most effective tools in Protect PT’s toolbox. It enables us to put the power of the law in the people’s hands to use legal mechanisms in pursuit of transformative improvements to laws and systems. Right now, we have two important cases pending before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board. We have appealed the drill and operate permits issued by the PA DEP for the Olympus’ Metis pad and Apex’s Drakulic pad. We are arguing, among other things, that the DEP violated **Article 1, Section 27**, the Environmental Protection Amendment, by issuing the permits without any standards for the use or introduction of PFAS and PFOA type chemicals, also known as forever chemicals, into the environment. These are dangerous and persistent chemicals. Please support our legal work by donating today online or with the tear off card below.

Donate To Our Legal Advocacy Today!

#Season Of Giving

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