



Otzinachson

REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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QUOTE

"The greatest danger hanging over our children and grandchildren is initiation of changes that will be irreversible on any time scale that humans can imagine."

—Dr. James Hansen,

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Secretary Krancer Fails Us on Climate Change

by Jack Miller

Most of us would like the top environmental official in our state to be well versed and highly knowledgeable on the environmental threats that our state faces. Almost everyone who concerns themselves with environmental issues considers climate change and disruption the single greatest threat that not only Pennsylvanians face, but also our nation and the world. That our chief environmental officer, Secretary Krancer of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) failed to acknowledge the reality of the coming crisis is something to be upset about, but it should not come as any surprise. Secretary Krancer works in an administra-

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All for One and One for All

by Sam Pearson

If you're paying attention to gas drilling issues at all, you are certainly familiar with the Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA) out of Williamsport. You may also have heard of other groups bringing up the issue in Selinsgrove, Dallas, Bloomsburg, Lewisburg or Watsonstown – namely, the Rivertown Coalition, the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition, Wendy Lee, the Frack Awareness Coalition and OUE.

When you first go to the RDA website, on the one hand it's clear that it's a great resource; on the other, much of it seems particularly pertinent to people living directly in the shadow of a well. They give contact numbers should you need to report an incident, like a leak or a spill, and they give guidelines for what to look for in the creeks and streams near your house. This is clearly a critical service and yet it draws a stark line between those in immediate proximity to the industrial operations and those further away. Similarly, the information needs of people get more basic the further away from ground zero you move. So while the

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Message from the Chair

Thank you!

To the members of the Otzinachson Group I want to thank you for your membership in the Sierra Club. Your membership not only supports the Club financially, but gives those working on our behalf more clout when representing the club. I hope that you take great satisfaction that through you membership you are helping to create a more healthy planet.

While we are always in need of volunteer help from our membership, we recognize that many of our members have a very fully scheduled life. We are also a very geographically extended Group. One way that you could help is suggesting to friends who have environmental concerns that they consider membership in the Sierra Club. We are all very frustrated by what we so often see from our State and Federal governments and often feel helpless in what we can do. Membership in the Sierra Club is one positive step. Suggest to your friends that they too can take satisfaction in supporting America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

The simplest way to join is to go to sierraclub.org and click on the join/renew button. You can also print out the membership form in this newsletter.

Jack Miller, Chair

Get Outdoors!

Edward Abbey Hiking Society Spring 2013 Outings Schedule

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, has out done himself this year with spring and summer hikes that extend across northcentral and northeastern Pennsylvania and into New York. Thanks to all of the Volunteer Outings Leaders for their contributions!

You can download the Outings Schedule at Otzinachson.Wordpress.com/get-outdoors

Group Leadership

Jack Miller*, Chair, Program Chair, Chapter Delegate

Richard Sahn*, Vice-Chair

Roy Fontaine*, Secretary/Treasurer, Fundraising Chair

Nicole Faraguna*, Political Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

Lana Gulden*, Publicity Chair

Dave Hafer*, Conservation Co-Chair

Sam Pearson*

Brian Brown, Chapter Delegate (Alternate)

Susan Loftus, Membership Chair

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair

David Young

Issues: Environmental Education

(*) Members of the Executive Committee

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Attend a Meeting

May 1st
July 10th
September 4th
November 6th

**Meetings begin at
7:00 pm and are held at:**

**Mondragon Book Store
111 Market Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837**

Please note that this location is not handicap accessible. If you can suggest a accessible location, please contact Jack Miller at 570.837.6546.

If you have something for the group to discuss, please contact Jack Miller ahead of time at jmiller1018@yahoo.com.

All for One and One for All (cont'd)

Continued from page 1

finer points of pending legislation and specific corporate infractions are on the front burner in the northern tier, the farther south you go, the more likely you are to find a need for more basic information on the order of "Fracking 101" or even just "what is sustainability?" In those areas there are also local groups beginning to address high volume slickwater hydraulic fracturing and they are putting out valuable info and developing helpful programming too. It has become clear that it's time for these groups to join forces. The hope is that by banding together in the face of a highly organized and well-funded industrial threat, they can be more efficient and effective moving forward. We want to know about programs others are organizing. We want to cross-promote. We don't want to reinvent the wheel. We'd rather use our personal energy resources to build momentum and reinforce the resistance. We should be populating public meetings together rather than finding out about each other's big events after the fact.

To that end, RDA, OUE (Organizations United for the Environment), the Frack Awareness Coalition, the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition, the Rivertown Coalition, Mountain Justice and various independent activists particularly prominent in our region are coming together under the banner of the Shale Justice Coalition: Organizations United for the Environment. It's no accident that the OUE name figures prominently in the new group moniker. OUE is one of the motive forces behind the collaboration. Each group will still maintain their independence and identity, but will work together to get people out to events and hearings, to coordinate a regional calendar, to provide broadly pertinent resources on gas drilling and sustainability. We will build on the strengths of the various coalition mem-

bers to provide an excellent newsletter online per RDA, but with expanded relevance to the wider region and membership, real mail outreach per OUE, with up to the minute topics, an ear to the ground for resistance action per Mountain Justice, Wendy Lee and Kevin Heatley, already renowned for their strong voices on the side of people and the planet, spiritual relevance per the Interfaith Sacred Earth Coalition, and events and basic education from FrAC and Rivertown,

We are groups working together to secure a healthy future in the face of extreme energy extraction and associated industrialization. Our working website is shalejustice.org. Contact us by email at info@shalejustice.org.

FrAC originally came out of meetings on gas drilling organized by Otzinachson. We have offered an information table at the Lewisburg Farmers' Market and last year put together the Songs from the Sacrifice Zone Concert. We also work to educate through flyers at regional events and organizing constituent meetings with our legislators. One project that has come up repeatedly in the past few years is the idea of having tours of impacted areas. It is clear from the new contacts and horizons offered by the Shale Justice Coalition, that will be far more manageable than our initial efforts promised. On the one hand, one can just direct people up to Hughesville or Sonestown, on the other, we may now be able to offer tours along with the opportunity to meet the people whose well water has been directly impacted and get some insight into the craziness that is invading the northern tier.

Sierra Club members are ahead of the curve on this topic in many ways. For one, you've been aware of energy extraction and its con-

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How Clean Are Your Electrons?

By Jack Miller

If you are in a position to have your own photovoltaic system or windmill, you are in the enviable position of producing your own clean electrical energy. But this is not always possible. I for example, live in the woods. I've consulted with a solar provider, but we just don't have a suitable site for our own system. I now purchase by electrons from a company which produces clean, renewable energy.

Under the PA Power Switch program, we in Pennsylvania have been given the choice of from whom we purchase our electrons. It's a great feeling to know that when I turn on a light I'm promoting clean energy, not contributing to climate disruption, or sending a child to the emergency room with an asthma attack. I still should do all I can to save energy since the cleanest energy is that which we do not use. Check out www.papowerswitch.com to see if clean energy is available for you. ☞

All for One and One for All (cont'd)

Continued from page 3

sequences in many contexts and not been satisfied with turning away from the ugliness. For another, you also actually have some personal familiarity with the state of the state in its isolated glory. It can be hard to convey the severity of the impact of the incessant truck traffic and forest clearing and stream fouling for people who don't already know what driving to Picture Rocks was like 10 years ago, or what kind of traffic used to be found along 118. But those who have been participating in Otzinachson Outings over the years do have an appreciation of what Wellsboro and Rt 6 used to feel like. It's time take that Sierra Club motto of "Explore. Enjoy. Protect" and kick part three into high gear. Shale Justice is calling. ☞

New Report Underscores Cozy Relationship Between the Regulated and the Regulators

The Public Accountability Initiative has released a new report entitled "Fracking and the Revolving Door in Pennsylvania", which paints an alarming picture of the cozy relationships between the regulators and the regulated, our elected officials and the industry.



Fracking and the Revolving Door in Pennsylvania

February 2013



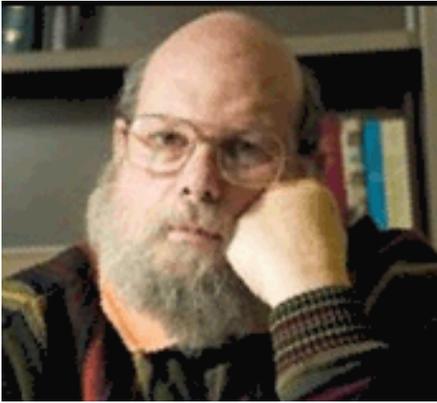
The oil and gas industry frequently argues that fracking means jobs. This appears to be especially true for former regulators and other public officials in Pennsylvania, many of whom have taken lucrative jobs working for the industry.

This report documents the revolving door between government and the gas industry in Pennsylvania, where numerous top government officials and environmental regulators have either left their public jobs for careers in the oil and gas industry or come to government from the private sector. The report is based on extensive research on the career trajectories of dozens of public officials, with a focus on the executive branch and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in particular.

Download the Report at <http://public-accountability.org>. ☞

Walt Brasch on Fracking Pennsylvania

By Nicole Faraguna



Walter Brasch Ph.D., is an award-winning former newspaper reporter and editor in California, Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio, former multi-media writer-

producer, and magazine editor. He is the author of a weekly syndicated newspaper column, Wanderings. Dr. Brasch is also an emeritus professor of mass communications and journalism.

His latest book, Fracking Pennsylvania, explores the fracking epidemic that has taken hold of our state – he digs deep into the real life stories of those impacted on the ground plus connects the money to the politics that runs much deeper than the shale.

Q. Tell me why you wrote this book?

A: It started with just basically a 1st amendment topic. I thought that Act 13 violated 1st amendment rights of health professionals to communicate information to their patients. I looked deeper into but I couldn't find a 1st amendment issue– I found lots of bad things, however, including what they call the gag order which had received a lot of spread after I wrote 3 columns on the topic. I didn't want to write another book – I just finished one and was still promoting it.

A lot of folks were complaining about the drilling in Pennsylvania. I was aware of fracking for about 3 years. The more I looked into it, the more I became angry about it. I looked into

the politics and social issues—they seemed to intersect. That's what I write about.

Q. What else troubled you about act 13?

A. The politics – the amount of money put into our politicians – and who got what money.

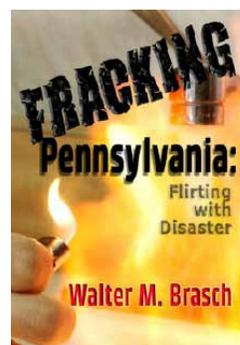
Q. Tell me about the research you conducted.

A. Basically digging deeper into the facts and personal stories – finding the relationships – you can't separate environment from public health and you can't separate it all from politics –it's a broad based problem.

Q. Why should Sierra Club members read this book?

A. There is a lot of information out there – I tried to gather this information in one place so that readers can find it easily. Readers will learn information they haven't learned about such as the Riverdale Trailer Park as well as different stories/anecdotes from across the nation and Pennsylvania. I want them to become angry and organize – they need to protect themselves –they need to know if they're near a lease or sign a lease that they may experience real problems.

Read the full interview at NorryNoise.com. 



Sierra Club Members enjoy a discount.

You can purchase the book at <http://www.greeleyandstone.com/mediaroombooks/frackingpennsylvania>.

Krancer Fails Us on Climate Change (cont'd)

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tion which acts as a paid subsidiary of the gas and oil industry.

Before a budget hearing of the House Appropriations Committee, Secretary Krancer did not acknowledge the reality of climate change. After the hearings in another statement he tried to “cover his tracks” by acknowledging that the planet was warming and that man’s activities were involved, but pointed to scientific uncertainty. In the hearing he demonstrated ignorance and in his later statement he demonstrated disingenuousness. He has learned to parrot the masters of deception who are on big carbon’s payroll. There is overwhelming scientific consensus on all the basic issues regarding climate change. Science now speaks with a very high level of confidence on the issue on climate change. The uncertainty of which Secretary Krancer spoke does not exist. One would hope that our top environmental official would know and tell the truth.

Why would intelligent, generally informed people go to such lengths to deny what the best and brightest are telling us about our climate? Three major reasons that are not new as motivators for our species: power, greed, and calcified thinking are the keys to climate change denial. The oil, gas, and coal industries motivation is the same as their mentors in misrepresentation, the tobacco industry, profits. The Republican Party and too many on the opposite side of the isle are indebted to the mother milk of politics, money, provided by Big Carbon. They want to remain in office and retain their positions of power.

The thinking of the political right is so extreme along with its marriage with corporate capitalism that they must twist the truth to hang onto their political and economic beliefs.

They do not want to acknowledge the problems because it would require government action and their hatred of government will not allow them to acknowledge the need for government to act. Government is a tool to be used to meet needs and solve problems. Government must act if we are to ameliorate the climate crisis which we now face. Individual action is certainly necessary, but cannot solve the problem alone.

Giving up fundamental beliefs is a very difficult thing. The Catholic Church could not give up the belief in an earth centered universe so they had to punish Galileo for his solar centered universe. Our National Academy of Science has stated that “Climate Change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for a broad range of human and natural systems.” This statement is supported by national academies of science throughout the world. It is the job of politicians to develop policies regarding the best knowledge science can give them; it is not for the politicians to deny the evidence.

The tobacco industry was aware that cigarettes caused cancer in the 1950’s, but for selfish reasons fought the truth for many decades. The life systems of the earth cannot tolerate more decades of inaction regarding climate change. Our grandchildren must not be forced to reap this whirlwind of our selfish inaction on climate change.

We must recognize that we are committing inter generational crime by failing to act. We must all act to limit and end our contribution to this crime. We cannot continue to allow people like Secretary Krancer to be leading perpetrators of this crime. ☞

Attention Downwind Neighbors: *Oppose the Tire Burner*

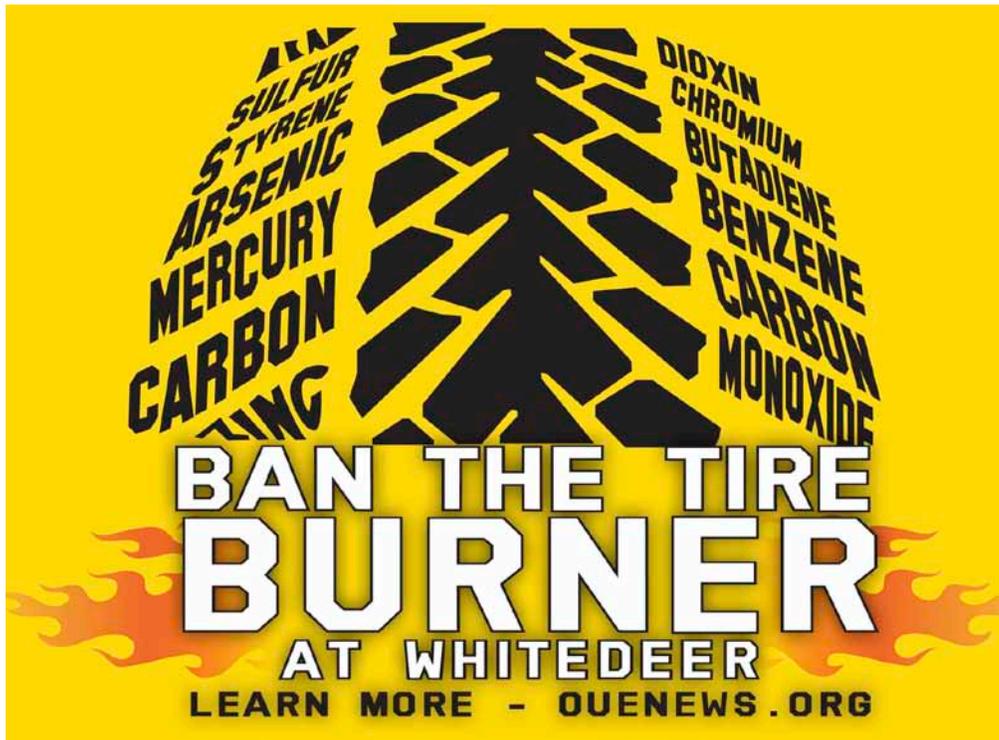
For over two years Organizations United for the Environment (OUE) has been fighting the proposal to burn scrap tires for electricity, known as the White Deer Energy Project (WDEP)

located in White Deer Township in Union County, on old Route 15 close I 80.

WDEP withdrew their application, resubmitted it, and as nothing appeared to be happening, most folks thought it was dropped. Fortunately via a File Review a few days after Christmas, OUE learned WDEP had submitted an additional 75 pages of revisions in its attempt to gain DEP approval.

At OUE's request, on December 4, 2012 Sherri A. Mason, Ph. D, an atmospheric chemist, sent to Marcus Kohl, the DEP regional director in Williamsport her report and findings.

The quotes are from her report. State states, "I am concerned about the potential impact of the proposed facility owing to the fuel source (TDF), especially with regard to the emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs).the HAPs designation includes chemical species



or of compounds which are known or suspected carcinogens or may lead to other serious health effects, such as reproductive issues or birth defects. Given the possible human health impact of HAP emissions, potential sources

must be carefully, properly and fully analyzed, which at the time of writing, has not occurred....." (page I)

On page three of her letter she states, (WNEP's) ".... the emission factors in Plan Application are not scientifically valid."

Otzinachson readers are encouraged to share their questions and concerns by sending a letter to" DEP, Air Quality, North Central Region, 208 W Third St, Williamsport, PA 17701 and OUE would be pleased to have a copy of its file, OUE, Box 1, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

The full text of Dr. Mason's comments is available online at <http://otzinachson.wordpress.com/about/issues>. Posters are available to those who are interested in displaying the Ban the Tire Burner message. Please contact David Young at dayoung@ptd.net to learn more. ☐

Upcoming Otzinachson Programs *Mark Your Calendars*

Beyond Coal

April 4 at 6:45 PM

Public Library for Union County*

255 Reitz Blvd Lewisburg, PA 17837 (Map It)

The Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign is more than fighting power plants. Here in Pennsylvania, we are also working to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania has a legacy of exploiting resources to the detriment of our citizens and our environment. It doesn't have to be this way!

The program will be presented by Jeff Schmidt. Jeff is the long time lobbyist for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club and is also its executive director.

History of the CCC

May 9th at 6:45 PM

Public Library for Union County*

255 Reitz Blvd Lewisburg, PA 17837 (Map It)

John Eastlake will present a program in which he will give the background on how the CCC worked and cover the various regional camps. The Civilian Conservation Corps is in its 80th year.

2nd Annual Otz in the Park

September 8th at 1:30 PM

Pavilion #1, R.B. Winter State Park (Map It)

Join fellow environmentalists for this potluck gathering. Enjoy the beautiful views of Halfway Dam while meeting new people and connecting with old friends. This event is open to the public.

Why Oppose the Keystone XL Pipeline?

We need to invest the fuels of the future -- those which will allow our children to have a future -- rather than engage in the race for the dregs, which fills the pockets of huge fossil energy corporations and bankrupts the climate systems of the planet.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which concluded the pipeline would have little net effect on climate change ignores the role that US energy policy plays in signaling its intentions and shifting the global economic climate in favor of renewable energy. Opting to participate in the battle to extract every last bit of dirty carbon-heavy fuel demonstrates ignorance of the inexorable and undeniable math concerning carbon's place in the biosphere. I refer you to the basics:

- We have released 1400 gigatons of C to date (one quarter of that just since 2000).
- We have an allowance or budget of another 500 Gt which can be released and still stay under 2 degrees C warming.
- There are an estimated 2,800 Gt remaining reserves, the vast majority of which we cannot afford to release.

These extreme fuels (artic oil, tar sands, frack gas) have extremely poor EROI (energy return on investment) ratios to begin with. When the actual costs, typically externalized, are added in, especially global climate disruption impacts to agriculture, urban infrastructure and general human habitat, they quickly plunge into the negative column. We must use our remaining carbon budget to leverage the shift to efficiency and renewables. Otherwise we might as well consider ourselves the ultimate pro-death civilization.

Say no to Keystone. Say yes to the future. 