

My name is Judy M Armstrong Stiles and I'd like to speak of our personal experience with Natural Gas Drilling in our area of Sugar Run, Bradford County Pennsylvania.

More than three years ago, Carl purchased 5 acres of land near Sugar Run. I moved into the home in November of 2010. We were living that American dream in the mountains near the huge River of the Susquehanna. In January of 2011, Chesapeake showed up at our door asking to lease our land with the guarantee that it wont be drilled on due to its location but it was possible to make a ton of money on a possible pipeline that could generate money for a long time. The lease was signed after drilling had already taken place more than 3 mores from our home. We thought we were safe.

It wasnt long I noticed I was having stomach issues and the skin on my hands changed then my toes. It was intermittent at first, but as time went by other symptoms appeared. I was having severe joint pain, my hair started to fall out, pea size lumps, fatigue, tremors, muscle spasms in my arms and legs then eventually heart attack symptoms. I was rushed to the emergency room many many times. Doctors had no idea what was wrong. I was first diagnosed with an acid stomach; sent home given medicine that I took with water from our well and only to find out months later it turned into Hpylori a bacterial infection of the lining of the stomach. Even with anti biotics & antacid medicines that pain didnt go away from my digestive tract. I went to doctor after doctor. Then it dawned on me. Our well water turned salty, then it turned yellow. Soon after our water seemed as though it couldnt get through the pipes it spurted so much. Taking a shower in a closed environment you felt like you were choking and drowning in your own spit. For a few months the water actually burned & numbed the skin. A feeling that lasted at times for hours. Outside a hole developed in the yard with a whitish foamy material that smelled like kerosine and a mixture of transmission fluid.

It wasnt until we found a newspaper article of Methane Bubbles in the Susquehanna we decided we had to do more to know for sure if our well was truly contaminated. We had already set up an independent water testing company, but with the knowledge of the Susquehanna we called DEP right away. They showed up 2 weeks later. A DEP representative came to our home and confirmed a visual test on Methane in the water. They took samples to later test at their lab. Chesapeake showed up the same day but later in the evening. They too confirmed the visual presense of Methane but told us our well wasnt designed correctly so that was more the culprit and my illness had nothing to do with Methane Contamination. We had no idea at that time Methane was their only concern due to the exemption of the Safe Drinking Act from any other contaminants. Chesapeake out of "courtesy" brought us a cooler to get our drinking water but accepted no blame. We still had to shower in water filled with unknown things.

It wasnt long I demanded my family doctor do a blood test for heavy metals. Again I had no idea what all to test for and since my family doctor was hesitant to do the testing in the first place I was ever so more assertive. I was sick for a reason. The results came back alarming. It was followed by a call from our doctor telling us NOT TO DRINK THE WATER. My blood test was positive for Barium at levels reaching 100. Carl's soon followed with levels of 110. We both had above levels of Arsenic too. We both set up appointments outside of our living area in Bradford County as we didnt feel the knowledge was there to handle what we were about to face. Toxicologists in Philadelphia confirmed what we had we dreaded. Leave our home as it was the source of the contamination. I was already in the hospital for heart attack symptoms for the third time & Carl was bleeding internally with the same syntoms I was was suffering. In November, we left after my discharge from the hospital and went to stay with everyone we could think that would take us in outside of Bradford County. By December of 2010, we discovered our well water was contaminated with Methane, Propane, Ethane, Ethene, Barium, Arsenic, and thats only a few. Other tests confirmed our home has levels of radiation 13.7 far exceeding the standard level of 2 set by the Environmental Protection

Agency. We also did alpha & gamma testing of our well water and traces of Uranium, Radium 226 & radium 228 were found there also. The hole in the yard has expanded into two separate places that gurgles about every 20 minutes or so.

We left our home with everything inside. All those things that most people hold dear. Photos of a lifetime, all the furniture from TV to beds and linens. We took what clothes we had on. We live to this day with furniture that was given to us. Our computer desks were cardboard boxes and the two chairs were fold up chairs you take camping. We slept on the floor for months during this whole time going from one doctor to the next, toxicologists, and hospitals when an emergency arised. Many Many doctors who dont understand the affects of Barium poisoning. Carl now has cancer and I have the threat hanging over my head as we were told by Toxicologist in Pittsburg to expect. We both have to take medicines to keep our digestive tract from feeling like its on fire and some days it just doesnt do a good job. We have pain in areas that cant be explained by any test. Our American dream, is dashed. Our lives are at stake. We are not only paying a mortgage for a home we cant live in, we have to pay rent for an apartment. The money given to Carl for those 5 acres now pays for all the things we need to have; from doctors to hospitalizations to mortgage payments. We are both so ill we cant work. We cant sell our home as its worthless & the real estate agent we spoke to wont touch it. We cant "clean it up". We have no idea what all the contaminants are due to Non-disclosure of Chemicals.

My question to the panel is: Would you want your sister, daughter, son, mother, aunt, uncle or other family member suffering as we have from contaminated water?

excerpt from Article I of the Pennsylvania State Constitution Sec 27:

'The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's natural resources are the common property of all the people including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.'

Although this email was written for the State of New York, Please listen to the people! NO ONE person, NO ONE animal or any other natural piece of the environment is expendable for Natural Gas Drilling in your state or any other state.

Thank You

Judy & Carl Stiles

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