

EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15, 5 P.M.

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EHP Marks 10 Years of Defending Public Health: Special Event at Energy Innovation Center Caps Nonprofit's Yearlong Observance

PITTSBURGH, PA, September 15, 2022 – Today, the nonprofit Environmental Health Project (EHP) marked 10 years of defending public health in the face of shale gas development with a special event at the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh's Lower Hill District. The private event gave EHP the opportunity to recount the challenges and successes of the past decade while looking ahead to a continued mission to protect families and communities from health impacts, which EHP has witnessed firsthand and which researchers have documented in dozens of studies. Approximately 100 partners, funders, staff, and friends attended.

The dinner event featured a keynote address by **John M. Smith, Esq.**, who featured prominently in the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America* by Eliza Griswold. Smith represented families fighting for their health and well-being during the early days of the shale gas boom.

EHP's executive director, **Alison L. Steele**, honored EHP's founders—Norman Anderson, David Brown, and Raina Rippel—and set a course for EHP's future community assistance, education, and advocacy work.

"This event provides a moment to reflect, appreciate, and re-gather our strength," said Steele. "The 10 years of EHP are a testament to the resiliency of the organization and to the dedicated support of individuals who have given their time, energy, and funding to defend the health of so many residents living in the shadow of this heavy industry."

Beginning in 2012 as the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, EHP's 10 years have focused on research, investigations, and interaction with frontline communities, impacted residents, industry workers, and others confronted with health harms from shale gas development, not just in Southwestern Pennsylvania but across the globe. The organization has also educated health professionals and policymakers on the pathways of emissions exposure and on health risks inherent in shale gas development.

Highlights of EHP's first 10 years include:

- 2012: EHP opens its office in McMurray, PA, one year after the organization is first conceptualized during a tour of Southwestern Pennsylvania shale gas wells with impacted residents
- 2013: EHP joins its first collaboration to form the organization, Protect Our Children, and hosts its first "train-the-trainer" (air model) for community leaders
- 2014: EHP expands outside of Pennsylvania, offering air monitoring services to impacted residents in West Virginia and New York, and team members publish their first article, in *Review of Environmental Health*
- 2015: EHP attends its first meeting with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and hosts a national workshop
- 2016: EHP receives the Jean and Leslie Douglas Pearl Award for dedication to improving the lives of others and providing a sustainable planet for the future
- 2017: EHP opens a public health registry aimed at tracking and eventually analyzing the impacts of shale gas development on people living near wells, impoundments, compressor stations, and pipelines
- 2018: EHP conducts its New York Environmental Health Study
- 2019: EHP sponsors Community Meeting on Childhood Cancers in Southwestern Pennsylvania; approximately 200 residents attend and voice their concerns
- 2020: EHP is singled out in the 43rd Pennsylvania Statewide Grand Jury report for filling a void left by government agencies; launches its new HealthWatch initiative
- 2021: EHP introduces its AirView app to community members, allowing them to view the data collected by their air monitors
- 2022: EHP hosts a Public Health Summit and releases a white paper, *Pennsylvania's Shale Gas Boom: How Policy Decisions Failed to Protect Public Health and What We Can Do to Correct It*

Apropos of EHP's growing international footprint, the name of the organization was shortened to the Environmental Health Project last year.

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