

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **EHP, HealthFirstPA To Host Webinar: “Pennsylvania’s Shale Gas Boom: How Policy Decisions Failed to Protect Public Health and What We Can Do to Correct It”**

The Environmental Health Project (EHP) and HealthFirstPA will host a webinar for the general public regarding policy decisions Pennsylvania has made around shale gas development (also called “fracking” or “unconventional gas development”) and how these decisions failed to protect public health. This one-hour webinar will also discuss what we can do to correct the shortcomings.

**Date & Time: Thursday, July 21, Noon-1 p.m.**

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The webinar content relies largely on the findings of the Environmental Health Project’s white paper, “Pennsylvania’s Shale Gas Boom: How Policy Decisions Failed to Protect Public Health and What We Can Do to Correct It.”

A Q&A session will take place following the presentations. A recording of the event will be made available afterward.

Members of the media are welcome to attend. Speakers will be available for interviews following the event.

#### **Presenters**

“What Went Wrong?” – EHP’s Director of Research and Policy **Beth Weinberger** (MPH, PhD) discusses certain policy decisions made by Pennsylvania legislators, governors, and agencies that jeopardized the health and welfare of residents and continues to do so.

“Why Does It Matter?” – EHP’s Public Health Manager **Makenzie White** (MPH, LMSW) talks about health impacts felt by residents living in proximity to shale gas development, including higher risks of respiratory issues, heart disease, poor birth outcomes, and cancer.

“How Can We Do Better?” – EHP’s Executive Director **Alison L. Steele** (MBA) outlines a framework for policymakers that, if incorporated, would go a long way toward helping to protect the health of Pennsylvanians from the harmful effects of shale gas development.

The webinar includes an introduction from the **Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox**, President and CEO of The Evangelical Environmental Network.

Contact Scott Smith with questions: [ssmith@environmentalhealthproject.org](mailto:ssmith@environmentalhealthproject.org), 412-600-0738

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### **About the Environmental Health Project**

The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that defends public health in the face of shale gas development. We provide frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation, and guidance. We engage diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, public servants, and others. We do so because knowledge protects health.

### **About HealthFirstPA**

[HealthFirstPA](#) is a coalition of health care professionals, public health advocates, parents, and faith leaders who defend children and other vulnerable populations from the health risks posed by harmful pollution from oil and gas development. Our kids, grandkids, and families all need protections. That’s why we do all that we can to ensure proper safeguards from the pollution that leaks from Pennsylvania’s dirty energy production.

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