

The Right to a Healthy Home: Re-Framing Fracking

Leann Leiter, Environmental Health Fellow July 13, 2017

Environmental Health Project
2001 Waterdam Plaza Dr. Suite 201
McMurray PA 15317

Overview

Stories

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Fracking Frames

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Healthy Homes

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A Matter of Rights

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Making the Frame Your Own

About EHP



“Our mission is to respond to individuals' and communities' need for access to accurate, timely and trusted public health information and health services associated with natural gas extraction.”



Stories of household impacts

A Greene County home with two kids and no running water

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A house and a garage--with an ethane pipeline in between

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An 1853 farmhouse “built for a princess” in Ohio

Fracking “frames”

- What’s a “frame”?



Frame:

A way of understanding
or communicating
about an issue

How do we frame fracking?

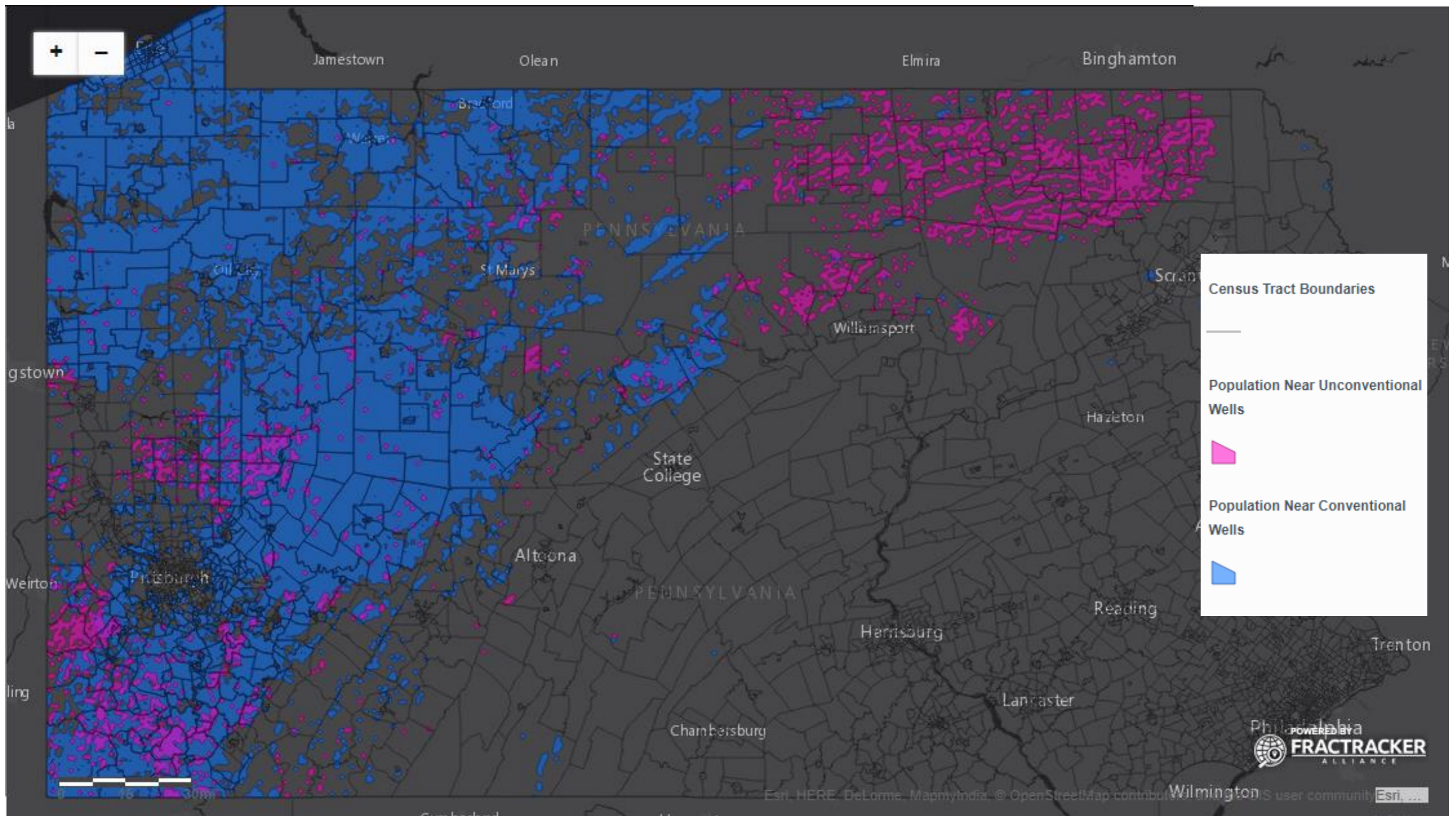


Elements of a “fracking-friendly” frame:

- “Economic impacts”—but only the positives
 - Puts jobs before health
- “Choice”
 - Assumes that people can relocate, despite possible decreased housing values
- “Sacrifice of the few for the good of the many”

“Energy has to come from somewhere. **The needs of the many may outweigh the inconvenience of the few who live near the exploration efforts.** This is not an ideal situation for all residents, but it is the reality”

(Quote source)



<https://www.fractracker.org/2015/11/2-million-pennsylvanians/>



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

AMBULANCE: 911

FIRE-RESCUE: 911

HOSPITAL: Washington Hospital 724-225-7000

POLICE: 911

Site Address: Hill Church Houston Rd.

City, State, ZIP: Canonsburg, PA 15317

GPS: _____

Site Safety: Bryan Holmes MNL 763-248-8701
Rob Kosto CPG 724-494-2342

Construction Manager: Fred Leasure 330-795-0115

Local Operations Contact #: Sam Scriva 724-250-0786

Photo: Leann Leiter, 2017

A “healthy homes” frame

Focuses on:

- Household impacts of fracking
- Health impacts of fracking
- Human rights and how they are impacted by fracking





STOP

RIG TRAFFIC
←

RIG TRAFFIC
NO ENGINE BRAKES

More about “healthy homes”



SYMPTOMS TEMPORALLY RELATED TO UOGD

SYMPTOM CATEGORY	n	%	Symptom	n	%
UPPER RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS	39	64%	Nose or throat irritation	25	41%
			Sinus pain or infections	17	28%
			Nose bleeds	8	13%
CONSTITUTIONAL SYMPTOMS	33	54%	Sleep disruption	26	43%
			Fatigue	13	21%
			Weak or Drowsy	9	15%
NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS	32	52%	Headache	25	41%
			Dizziness	11	18%
			Numbness	9	15%
			Memory loss	8	13%
PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS	32	52%	Stress or anxiety	23	38%
			Irritable or moody	12	20%
			Worry	6	10%
LOWER RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS	30	49%	Cough	21	34%
			Shortness of breath	19	31%
GASTRO-INTESTINAL SYMPTOMS	27	44%	Weezing	14	23%
			Nausea	13	21%
			Abdominal pain	12	20%
EYE SYMPTOMS	23	38%	Itchy eyes	11	18%
			Painful or dry	10	16%
DERMATOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS	19	31%	Rash	10	16%
			Itching	7	11%
			Lesions or blisters	6	10%
CARDIAC SYMPTOMS	17	28%	Palpitations	9	15%
			Chest pain	6	10%
			Other cardiac symptoms	6	10%
			Hearing loss	3	5%
HEARING CHANGES OR TINNITUS	10	16%	Tinnitus (ringing in the ear)	10	16%
			Painful joints	9	15%
MUSCULOSKELETAL	10	16%	Aches	7	11%
			Hair loss	7	11%

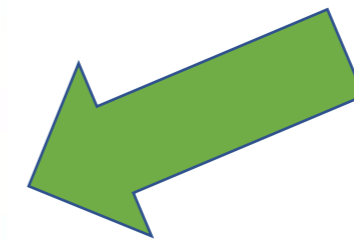
n = Number of patients reporting symptom, out of 61 patients assessed
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 Adapted from: <http://environmentalhealthproject.org/resources/4/click/93>

Who cares about “healthy homes?”



What makes a healthy home?

Social determinants of health



Fracking and health research

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Why do healthy homes matter?

Human flourishing



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37497435>

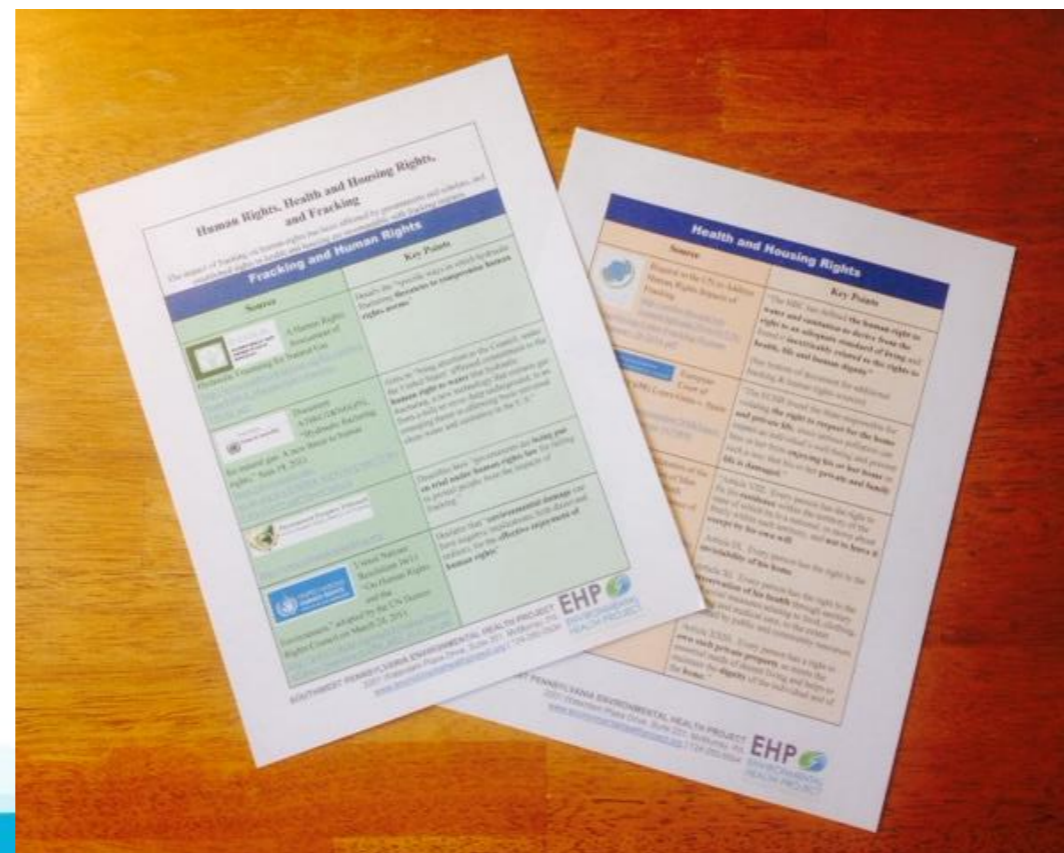
Human rights



<http://www.bdlawreview.org/tag/human-rights-treaties/>

Human rights and fracking

- A way to strengthen the healthy homes frame
- Declarations of fracking's violations of human rights
- Declarations of rights to *health* and *home* apply to fracking






Human Rights, Health and Housing Rights, and Fracking

The impact of fracking on human rights has been affirmed by governments and scholars, and established rights to health and housing are incompatible with fracking impacts.

Fracking and Human Rights

Source	Key Points
 <p>A Human Rights Assessment of Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas http://www.earthworksaction.org/files/publications/EHRA_Human-rights-fracking-FINAL.pdf</p>	<p>Details the “specific ways in which hydraulic fracturing threatens to compromise human rights norms”</p>
 <p>Document A/HRC/18/NGO/91, “Hydraulic fracturing for natural gas: A new threat to human rights,” Sept. 19, 2011. https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/160/72/PDF/G1116072.pdf?OpenElement</p>	<p>Aims to “bring attention to the Council, under the United States’ affirmed commitment to the human right to water that hydraulic fracturing, a new technology that extracts gas from a mile or more deep underground, is an emerging threat to affirming basic universal clean water and sanitation in the U.S.”</p>
 <p>http://www.tribunalonfracking.org/</p>	<p>Describes how “governments are being put on trial under human rights law for failing to protect people from the impacts of fracking.”</p>
 <p>United Nations Resolution 16/11 “On Human Rights and the Environment,” adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on March 24, 2011. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/16session/A.HRC.RES.16.11_en.pdf</p>	<p>Declares that “environmental damage can have negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights”</p>

Health and Housing Rights

Source	Key Points
 <p>Request to the UN to Address Human Rights Impacts of Fracking http://center-hre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/UN-Working-Group-Letter-Fracking-Human-Rights-January-20-2016.pdf</p>	<p>“The HRC has defined the human right to water and sanitation to derive from the right to an adequate standard of living and found it inextricably related to the rights to health, life and human dignity”</p> <p>(See bottom of document for additional fracking & human rights sources)</p>
 <p>European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) Lopez Ostra v. Spain (1994) https://www.escri-net.org/caselaw/2008/lopez-ostra-vs-spain-application-no-1679890</p>	<p>“The ECHR found the State responsible for violating the right to respect for the home and private life, since serious pollution can impact an individual’s well-being and prevent him or her from enjoying his or her home in such a way that his or her private and family life is damaged.”</p>
 <p>American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (Adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States, Bogotá, Colombia, 1948) https://www.cidh.oas.org/Basicos/English/Basic2.American%20Declaration.htm</p>	<p>“Article VIII. Every person has the right to fix his residence within the territory of the state of which he is a national, to move about freely within such territory, and not to leave it except by his own will.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article IX. Every person has the right to the inviolability of his home</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article XI. Every person has the right to the preservation of his health through sanitary and social measures relating to food, clothing, housing and medical care, to the extent permitted by public and community resources.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Article XXIII. Every person has a right to own such private property as meets the essential needs of decent living and helps to maintain the dignity of the individual and of the home.”</p>

What can you do?

- **Not yet affected by fracking?**
- **Already affected by fracking?**

Not yet affected by fracking?

- [Communicate with your lawmakers](#)– Share this presentation or [article](#) with them, and ask what frame they are using when they make decisions on this and other dangerous modes of energy extraction
- Join [Halt the Harm Network](#) to get connected to groups and events “working to fight the harms of oil and gas development”
- Follow [@EnvironmentalHealthProject](#) and [@EHPinfo](#), reach out at environmentalhealthproject.org/contact to join our mailing list, and participate in the evolving discussion!

Already affected by fracking?

- The [Delaware Riverkeeper Network offers a guide](#) for communities and their local leaders to defending environmental rights at the municipal level.
- [Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services](#) provides “sliding scale” legal help to people in the Appalachian basin.
- Join the [EHP Shale Gas Health Registry & Resource Network](#) to share your exposures and symptoms
- Environmental Health Project—and affected communities—created these [brand-new resources](#)...

EHP resources for shale gas communities



Making the frame your own

- What are your household experiences with fracking?
- What has affected you most?
- How might you use a “healthy homes” frame?

Thank you!

**Please feel free to contact me
to ask questions or share ideas**

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