

Public Statement on PA Department of Health Secretary Levine Being Tapped by Biden Administration as Assistant Health Secretary

January 19, 2021

Background:

The administration of President-elect Joe Biden announced today that it had selected Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Rachel Levine as Assistant Health Secretary. Over the past three years, the SWPA Environmental Health Project met with Dr. Levine on multiple occasions to discuss health impacts from shale gas development.

EHP Statement:

We are pleased to learn that Dr. Rachel Levine has been tapped by the Biden Administration to fill the role of assistant health secretary. Secretary Levine has made important contributions to the health of Pennsylvanians generally during her time at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Although we have not always agreed with the Department of Health's positions with respect to issues related to shale gas development, we have always found Secretary Levine to be accessible and open to discussing the research and data we have collected. We wish Dr. Levine the best in her new position, and we look forward to working with her at the federal level – as well as with her replacement at the state level – to protect the health of Pennsylvanians.

Alison L. Steele, Executive Director
Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project