TOP CONCERNS of Current Setbacks

**AIR QUALITY**
Shale gas facilities emit poisonous toxins into the air that we breathe and absorb through our skin.

**WATER QUALITY**
Wastewater and chemical spills release methane and other chemicals into our drinking water.

**NOISE & LIGHT**
Unnatural noise, light, and vibration from shale gas development can be disturbing and harmful.

**STRESS**
Health effects and disturbances from shale gas development can cause uncertainty and stress.

**SOIL**
Toxic chemicals and substances associated with fracking can contaminate soil.

**EMERGENCY & PREPAREDNESS**
Spills, explosions, and other crises around shale gas facilities can threaten surrounding communities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

✓ Have an EHP public health nurse visit you or come in for a health assessment
✓ Request free air or water monitoring equipment from EHP
✓ Join the Health Effects Registry
✓ Place a HEPA-certified air filter in your home
✓ Remove avoidable indoor air pollutants
✓ Pay attention to the weather
✓ Contact your health care provider
✓ Contact your local government representatives to demand greater setback distances

HOW CLOSE IS TOO CLOSE?

Why You Should Care about Setback Distances from Shale Gas Operations

For more information, visit 
[environmentalhealthproject.org](http://environmentalhealthproject.org)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT
2001 Waterdam Plaza Drive, Suite 201
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WHAT IS A SETBACK DISTANCE?
The distance a shale gas facility legally has to be from a structure/building (like a house or school). Current setback distances have nothing to do with science or health and are simply a number policymakers could agree on.

WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?
Shale gas facilities release emissions into the air that can cause serious health problems. In order to protect public health, setback distances need to be increased to reduce both emissions and explosion dangers.

CURRENT SETBACK DISTANCES IN PENNSYLVANIA

- **500 FEET** from well pads to buildings like houses or schools
  *That’s about half a city block.*

- **750 FEET** from compressor stations and processing plants
  *That’s less than a city block.*

- **AS LITTLE AS 300 FEET** from well pads in residential districts if 500-feet restriction cannot be met
  *That’s the length of one football field.*

EHP RECOMMENDED SETBACK DISTANCE
Setback distance should be increased to AT LEAST 3,281 feet (0.6 miles) to protect people from dangerous shale gas emissions.

HAZARDOUS POLLUTANTS RELEASED FROM SHALE GAS FACILITIES

- VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCS)
- PARTICULATE MATTER FROM WELLS AND TRUCK EXHAUST
- METHANE THAT CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE
- SILICA DUST FROM SAND
- TOXIC CHEMICALS LIKE BENZENE, TOLUENE, ETHYLBENZENE, XYLENE, AND FORMALDEHYDE

*Based on inventory from PA DEP and the EHP air exposure model.*

INCREASING THE SETBACK DISTANCE FROM 500 FEET TO 3,281 FEET WOULD MEAN THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEARBY ARE 20 TO 40 TIMES LESS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS SHALE GAS EMISSIONS.*