

LWV **The Straight Scoop on Shale**

A Project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund

Eighth Annual Shale & Public Health Conference

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020 and Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020
noon — 4:30 p.m. EST

[REGISTER](#) at [SHALEPALWV.ORG](#)

The conference will feature five topic segments regarding new research on shale and public health impacts, and practical applications. All segments include a panel discussion led by a top researcher offering framing remarks. There will also be a networking session on Tuesday from 3:45 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday Nov. 17

Novel Methods of Assessing Air Exposures & Public Health

Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS, Yale with Longxiang Li, ScD, Harvard, Petros Koutrakis, PhD, Harvard, and Jill Johnston, PhD, USC

Unconventional Oil & Gas, Community Impacts & Environmental Justice

Lara Cushing, PhD, MPH, UCLA; Jim Fabisiak, PhD, U of Pittsburgh with Cassandra Clark, Yale, Katie Dickinson PhD, U of Colorado Anschutz and Rebecca Franz, Chief Deputy Attorney General of PA

Wednesday Nov. 18

New Research on Birth Outcomes

Lisa McKenzie, PhD, MPH, U of Colorado Anschutz with David Gonzalez, Stanford, and Kathy V Tran, PhD, UC Berkeley

New Research on Other Health Outcomes

Seth Shonkoff, PhD, MPH, PSE Healthy Energy/UC Berkeley with Irena Gorski Steiner, MPH, Johns Hopkins; Mary Willis, PhD, MPH, Oregon State; and David Brown, ScD, Environmental Health Project

Climate Change, COVID 19, Fossil Fuels and Plastics

Brian Schwartz, MD, Johns Hopkins with Kristina Marusic, Environmental Health News, and Anna Cummins, 5 Gyres

This virtual conference is presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

“Our results suggest that an increase in particle radioactivity due to the extensive [fracking development] may cause adverse health outcomes in nearby communities,” the team concluded.

Petros Koutrakis of the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health in Boston, who led the study, said: “If you asked me to go and live downwind [of fracking sites], I would not go. People should not go crazy, but I think it’s a significant risk that needs to be addressed.”

Carrington, D. (2020, Oct.13). Airborne radioactivity increases downwind of fracking, [study](#) finds. The Guardian, U.S. Edition.

New Study Published in Nature Communications

"Unconventional Oil and Gas Development and Ambient Particle Radioactivity" was published in *Nature Communications*, on Oct. 13, 2020 by authors from the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. They found that gross-beta particle radiation was significantly increased downwind from unconventional oil and gas development, which suggests this could lead to acute and chronic health impacts for populations living in proximity to unconventional development.

Li, L., Blomberg, A.J., Spengler, J.D., Coull, B.A., Schwartz, J.D., Koutrakis, P. (2020). Unconventional oil and gas development and ambient particle radioactivity. *Nat Commun* 11, 5002.

Webinar recordings are now available for this series.



**SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT AND CANCER:
CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EXPERTS**

- [Part 1 with Dr. Marsha Haley](#)
- Shale Gas Extraction and Cancer: The Current Evidence
- [Part 2 with Dr. Shaina Stacy](#)
- Unconventional Natural Gas Development and Childhood Cancers
- [Part 3 with Dr. David O. Carpenter](#)
- Radioactivity in Fracking Fluid and Natural Gas: Potential Health Effects

EHP will host a virtual Expert Panel in February 2021 addressing how pollution may impact the severity of respiratory infections. Stay tuned for more details.



Featured Research Reviews



Denham et al. (2019): Hospitalizations for skin issues and genital/urinary issues

Utilizing Pennsylvania county-level hospitalization data and state unconventional natural gas well data, researchers from the University of Rochester found a positive association between the number of gas wells per square kilometer and hospitalizations within two health categories: genital and urinary issues. These health issues include kidney stones, urinary tract and kidney infections, and skin issues such as cellulitis and abscesses. Read the full review [here](#).

PA Grand Jury Investigation into Harms Tied to Shale Gas Development

On June 25, 2020, PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro released “[Report 1 of the Forty-Third Statewide Investigating Grand Jury](#),” which examined shale gas operations in PA. **The report presented clear evidence that shale gas development puts public health at risk.** Watch the live [AG Video Conference](#).

EHP released a [Public Statement](#) regarding the Grand Jury report, highlighting the need for greater setbacks and regional aggregation of emissions across facilities.

Environmental Health

Medical Toolkit

If you suspect that your patient may be experiencing symptoms related to environmental exposure, you may want to inquire about their source of drinking water as well as their proximity to shale gas development infrastructure and municipal waste sites. EHP's [Medical Toolkit](#) contains guidance for recognizing symptoms of environmental exposure with patients who live in regions of shale gas development. **Watch this [video](#) which illustrates what the toolkit has to offer.**

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine designates this enduring material for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™]. For more information, click [HERE](#).

The **Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP)** is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional natural gas development (“fracking”).

Services provided by [EHP](#):

- [Medical ToolKit – Screening & Assessment Tools – Reference Materials](#)
- [CME/CEU Credits](#)
- [Latest health studies related to shale gas development](#)
- [Previous HCP Newsletters](#)
- Speakers on health topics related to environmental exposure and shale gas development

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EHP defends public health in the face of oil and 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.

Because knowledge protects health.

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