

2018 YEAR-END REVIEW

Term: Winter | Issue 3 | Date: December 17, 2018

REPORT: First 100 Residents in the Health Effects Registry

The Environmental Health Project has established the only national [Shale Gas and Oil Health Registry](#) for people living within 5 miles of hydraulic fracturing and other shale-related facilities (like compressor stations, processing plants, and injection wells).

As of October, over 100 individuals have registered.

The first 100 participants of the registry come from 11 states: Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

Join the Health Effects Registry



Here is some of what your registry responses are telling us:

Exposure:

- 53% of participants use private well water
- 29% live within ¼ mile of a well pad, compressor station or processing plant
- 37% live between 1 and 5 miles of one of these sites

Symptoms:

- Most frequently reported symptoms include: anxiety, stress, fatigue, painful joints, eye irritation or burning, persistent or frequent cough, throat irritation, frequent sinus problems, sleep disturbance, and numbness or tingling.
- Of those reporting itchy or irritated skin, about half reported using well water in their home.

To read the full report from October, click [here](#).

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Recently someone asked me what I was most proud of in my work. Easy, I answered promptly, my AMAZING team! In 2018, we have proved ourselves time and again to be the best source for timely and trusted guidance on fracking. Indeed, some have mistaken us for a state agency, a position fraught with difficulty and nearly impossible choices.

As an independent organization, EHP struggles every day to provide as many resources as we know residents deserve to answer their most urgent questions. With the generous help of foundations and donors like you, we can do more than we ever imagined to hold back the tide of damages threatening us every day. Thank you, everyone, for all your support of EHP and each other! Here's to a Healthy New Year for one and all.

Through the generosity of people like you, EHP's work has made a difference in the lives of many in the SWPA community and beyond. Your gift allows us to provide access to accurate, timely and trusted public health information and services associated with UOGD.

[Donate now](#)

MAKE A
DONATION

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EHP IN PRINT

[Setback distances for unconventional oil and gas development: Delphi study results](#)

Our study published in PLOS ONE, in August 2018, found that a panel of experts agree that current setback distances for shale gas facilities fail to protect residents, school children, the elderly, pregnant women, and other vulnerable people from a host of health-related issues.

The results of our study have prompted us to recommend increasing the minimum setback distance from the current 500 feet (possibly as little as 300 feet in residential districts) to 0.6 miles (3,281 feet or 1 km) for smaller shale gas facilities, and 1.25 miles (6,600 feet or 2 km) for gas processing plants and large compressor complexes and facilities that house vulnerable populations such as schools and hospitals.

For more information, see EHP's [Setback Distances Factsheet](#).

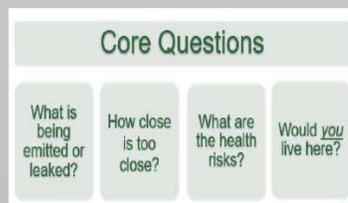
Read the full refereed PLOS ONE journal article, [Setback distances for unconventional oil and gas development: Delphi study results](#).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

[Shale Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Template for Compressor Stations](#)

This tool is designed to give your organization or local government a structured way to bring together relevant health data on your community, location of infrastructure and the surrounding area, expected emissions from shale gas or oil development, and the potential health risks posed to residents in the immediate area.

It provides decision-makers with a comprehensive perspective on the siting, expansion, or maintenance of a compressor station.



Check out our new HIA Template for a [Well Pad Site](#)

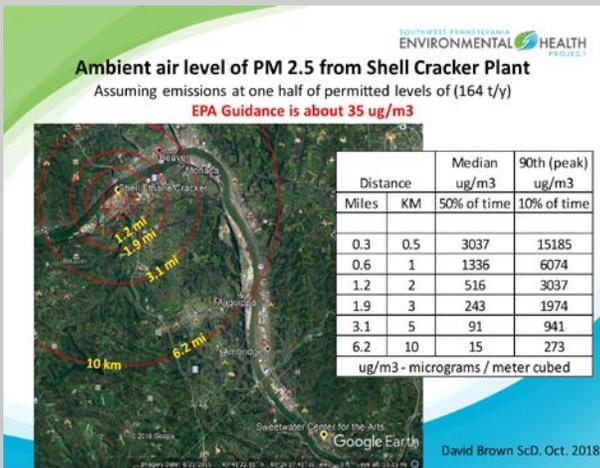
- ✓ [Compilation of UNGD Health Studies Using Pennsylvania Data](#) (updated 12/18)
- ✓ [How Shale Gas Development \(Fracking\) Affects Public Health: Multiple Risks to Our Health and Environment](#)
- ✓ [Mental Health Literature Review: Unconventional Oil and Gas Development](#)
- ✓ [Resources for Testing Residential Well Water](#)
- ✓ [Setback Distances, Public Health and Shale Gas Development](#)
- ✓ [Shale Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Template for Compressor Stations](#)
- ✓ [Shale Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Template for Well Pad Site](#)

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HOW FRACKING AND THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IMPACTS THE HEALTH OF A COMMUNITY

On November 1st, Debbie Larson, EHP's Medical Outreach Coordinator, presented on how EHP modeled the permitted emissions from the Shell Ethane Cracker plant in Beaver County at a community forum in Sewickley.



Using EHP's [Air Exposure Model](#) to analyze the data, we predict that at least 50% of the time:

- PM_{2.5} emissions would exceed EPA guidance levels as far as approximately 6 miles away; and
- Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) emissions would exceed EPA guidance levels as far as 3 miles away.

Vulnerable individuals, especially children, pregnant women, older adults with pre-existing conditions, and industry workers, exposed to high levels of emissions can experience many health effects.

*Important to note: the total of emissions permitted from the cracker plant for a year is **GREATER** than shale gas emissions from the **ENTIRE** county of Washington, which is one of the most heavily fracked counties in Pennsylvania.*

DO YOU NEED CME/CEU CREDITS?

Our [Environmental Health Medical Toolkit](#) can earn you 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™



ON THE ROAD...

You may have seen EHP sharing at...

- California University: School of Social Work
- Earth Witness: Open Mic
- Oil and Gas Infrastructure in Appalachian Ohio (Powhatan Point, OH)
- PA Health Check-Up: Part 1
- Penn State Fayette: Nursing Program
- Shale and Public Health Conference
- The Shale Gas Industry, Plastics & Health
- Villa Maria Community Center
- Westchester County Department of Health (NY)
- Westmoreland County Medical Society
- What to Expect When Fracking Is Your Neighbor in Indiana Township



...and many other places!

REMINDER

The Environmental Health Project provides **FREE** services for residents in Southwest PA affected by UOGD.

Contact us at 724-260-5504 for air and water monitors, or to schedule an appointment with a health professional.

Follow us on social media!

