

'Don't frack with our water,' say foes

Battles fought at town meetings

from The Washington Times:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/22/dont-frack-with-our-water-say-foes/>

I LOVE this story from the Washington Times (yes, the MOONIE paper). I love the quotes from ex-PA Governor and gas fracking industry consultant Tom Ridge:

Critics of the industry live in a dream world where solar and wind power completely replace so-called "dirty" fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal, said Tom Ridge, former Pennsylvania governor and Department of Homeland Security secretary and current adviser to the Marcellus Shale Coalition. "That world will never exist. You have to ignore those folks." Mr. Ridge said. "Accidents will happen. If you're going to make the perfect the enemy of the good, that's the wrong mindset."

...and the Range resources guy:

Matt Pitzarella, spokesman for [Range Resources](#), one of the largest players in the industry, believes there is a "highly organized, highly motivated base of opposition" to gas drilling. Organizations like the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund visit small towns and work with local officials to draft ordinances designed to keep gas companies out, he said.

According to this article, CELDF was a no-show to be interviewed:

The organization's spokeswoman, Mari Margil, did not return phone calls or emails from The Times. Its website calls gas drilling a "threat."

But others also disdained talking with the Rev. Moon's reporter:

It is unclear what data [Mr. Gansler](#) is relying on to justify the suit, expected to be filed in August. Calls to his spokeswoman were not returned.

and...

[Chesapeake](#), for example, did not respond to phone calls or emails from The Washington Times, with the exception of providing written statements after last week's fines were announced.

One wonders what reason the paper had for printing anything....

They could have written a story uncovering the reasons why K. Klaber of the corporate Marcellus Shale Coalition was invited to whine about CELDF to the PA state legislature (see: <http://paindependent.com/2011/05/local-ordinances-will-be-marcellus-shale-battlegrounds/>), and why CELDF was not invited to testify. They might have written a story about Senator Scarnati's SB 1100, which proposes to subsidize corporate gas drillers by advocating a "model local ordinance" drafted with industry interests in mind and ready for adoption by any local government that wants to receive bits of an "impact fee" fund. Those who do not adopt such a frack-friendly local law will not be eligible. And those who ban fracking? Funny thing, they won't need the impact fees.

Stand by for more *embedded reporting* from corporate national and local franchise media outlets...and for more legislative proposals for the state take-over of local self-government to benefit corporate political campaign underwriters.

Ben Price

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