



For Immediate Release

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“GASLAND” and Director Josh Fox Coming to Delaware

November 10 – 6:30pm Delaware Nature Society’s Dupont Environmental Education Center,
1400 Delmarva Lane, Wilmington, DE (a 212 acre urban wildlife refuge along the tidal Christina River)

November 14th – 7:00 pm at University of Delaware, Trabant University Center, Downstairs Theatre
19 West Main Street, Newark DE 19716 (Trabant is next to the parking garage)

Wilmington, Delaware & Newark, Delaware Josh Fox, Oscar award winning Director of GASLAND is coming to Delaware on November 14th. A coalition of Delaware-based groups are organizing two screenings of the documentary film, GASLAND. **ADMISSION IS FREE.** The film exposes pollution and community impacts that are plaguing the places where natural gas drilling is occurring.

About the film GASLAND: "The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. The Halliburton-developed drilling technology of "fracking" or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a "Saudi Arabia of natural gas" just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination. A recently drilled nearby Pennsylvania town reports that residents are able to light their drinking water on fire. This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called GASLAND. Part verite travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown."

The screening is timely as the Delaware River Basin Commission is set to vote on gas drilling regulations on November 21st in Trenton, NJ at the War Memorial at a special meeting to be held from

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10-noon. The vote on Nov 21 could open up the Delaware River Basin to gas drilling and ultimately affect the drinking water and health of Delaware state residents who live downstream of where the proposed drilling may happen and where future discharges of drilling waste, called flowback, may occur. There has been a moratorium on drilling in the Delaware River Basin over the past three years but that might all change at the November 21 DRBC vote when five representatives will take a vote.

“If gas drilling and fracking comes to the Delaware River Basin, there will be overwhelming drilling industry pressure for Wilmington and other wastewater facilities in and near the state of Delaware to accept fracking wastewater, which means that Delaware will get that very dirty end of the fracking waste cycle. The industry has already pushed to send their waste to the tidal Delaware because they don’t have enough places to get rid of this toxic material being produced in Pennsylvania. The Delaware River Basin Commission is discouraging discharge in the upper reaches of the River, so the nearest treatment plants will be in the tidal Delaware, putting a target on Delaware’s back,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

“Fracking simultaneously represents one of the greatest engineering achievements and one of the worst social failures of our time. Rather than clinging to dirty and limited fossil fuels it is time that we embrace the clean power of renewable energy,” said Adam Holubinka, a 2012 Energy & Environmental Policy Major and President of the Students for the Environment at the University of Delaware.

“This film is a real eye-opener into what the effects are on the people and communities where fracking is occurring,” said Ginger North, Associate Director for Natural Resources Conservation, Delaware Nature Society.

Hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” is the practice of injecting water and chemicals through a drilled well bore into a rock formation to crack open fractures to release natural gas. Natural gas, primarily methane, trapped in tight geologic formations such as the Marcellus and Utica shales, cannot be accessed without using this practice. Approximately 260 chemicals - and another 40 compounds with secret ingredients that the industry will not disclose- are being used in fracking fluids in Pennsylvania and other states where shale gas is being mined. ¹ Many of these chemicals are hazardous to humans and other species, many are toxic such as naphthalene, glutaraldehyde, and acrylamide and some are classified as carcinogenic by the federal government such as benzene, formaldehyde, and methanolⁱ.

In addition, fracking disturbs, distributes, and brings to the surface naturally occurring chemicals/minerals from deep geologic formations in the “flowback” fluids that erupt to the surface when a well is fracked. The resulting wastewater containing salts (“total dissolved solids”), heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and “naturally occurring radioactive materials” or NORMS, is typically stored in open pits at the well site, which are the source of hazardous air emissions and pose water pollution risks. When finally trucked to a wastewater facility, most of the pollutants are not removed but are simply diluted and discharged to waterways or are injected into underground “disposal” wells. There are no treatment facilities in use that are capable of removing all of the pollutants found in gas drilling wastewater. The United States Department of Energy concludes that produced water from gas drilling is 10 times more toxic than those from off shore oil drillingⁱⁱ

Due to the depth and length of the well bores (horizontal drilling is used to access the layers of shale), large amounts of fresh water are being consumed by fracking. About 5 million gallons of water is used to frack each gas well and it is all a depletive loss because about 80-85% stays underground and what does flow back is never returned to the source.

Air emissions are also adversely impacting communities where drilling is occurring and downwind. These include smog and pollutants from large numbers of diesel powered vehicles and equipment, the volatilization of hydrocarbons, dangerous methane releases, high levels of small particulate matter and frack fluid and wastewater toxins, including carcinogens such as benzene and methanol. Recent studies show that greenhouse gases from shale gas development have as big an impact, or bigger, than coal or oil, heavily contributing to global climate changeⁱⁱⁱ. The natural gas industry is exempt from major provisions in federal environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Superfund Law.

GASLAND Screenings Sponsored by: Students for the Environment, University of Delaware, Delaware Nature Society, Delaware City Environmental Coalition, Partnership for Sustainability, & 2012 Green Fair Committee

Click here for a 5 minute film by Josh Fox on what could be in store for the Delaware River:
www.savethedelawariver.com

For more information on gas drilling go to www.delawariverkeeper.org

ⁱ NYSDEC Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (DSGEIS), 2009

ⁱⁱ U.S. Dept. of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory, "A White Paper Describing Produced Water from Production of Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Coal Bed Methane", January 2004

ⁱⁱⁱ Robert W. Howarth, Renee Santoro, and Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University, "Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations", 2011.