



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Report Challenges CSSD Performance Standards as Unsupported and Ill-Conceived**

*Bristol, PA* – A new report, released today by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, challenges performance standards for shale gas drilling and fracking that were issued by the Center for Sustainable Shale Development (CSSD), raising serious concerns about the harms associated with extracting gas from shale. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network report presents analyses undertaken by six experts who reviewed the CSSD standards and found them wanting.

According to the experts who reviewed them, the CSSD performance standards:

- Are unsupported by science;
- Fail to address public health issues;
- Fail to protect air and water supplies;
- Lack the scientific rigorousness required of effective standards or sustainability;
- Contain broad loopholes;
- Are vague and fail to provide the specificity necessary for clear understanding, analysis and application;
- Advance practices already implemented by the industry or required by law that have been demonstrated to do nothing to further advance community or environmental protection;
- Have never been subject to independent peer review; and

- Simply fail to protect communities in any credible, quantitative way from the harms of shale gas extraction.

The performance standards reviewed in the new report were issued in August 2013 by the CSSD, a nonprofit partnership of drilling interests. The CSSD asserts shale gas extraction can be undertaken safely if done in compliance with its performance standards. The CSSD has gone so far as to suggest that, if implemented, its performance standards would achieve “safe, sustainable shale resource development.” The new Delaware Riverkeeper Network report calls that into question.

Furthermore, the performance standards are voluntary and, as of September 18, 2014, only one company was declared “certified” by the CSSD. There are currently 62 operators and 7,109 active wells in Pennsylvania (State Impact Pennsylvania, *Shale Play*).

“The CSSD standards propose to ‘raise the bar,’ which shouts the questions: why does the bar need raising? And how far does one have to raise it to make a difference? Those questions are answered, quantitatively and with regard to risk and consequence, by the experts writing in this report,” offered Anthony Ingraffea, Ph.D., Dwight C. Baum Professor of Engineering Emeritus and Weiss Presidential Teaching Fellow at Cornell University.

“This compilation of expert reviews exposes the individuals and politicians who are pedaling shale gas extraction as a viable fuel source for the snake oil salespeople they are” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, which commissioned the analyses. “For the CSSD to put forward the false narrative that shale gas extraction can be made safe is not only disingenuous, it is deceptive. These expert reports make clear that shale gas extraction puts in danger our children and children’s children from devastating storms, pollution, drought, and other harms. It is despicable that any individual or organization would knowingly perpetuate the myth of safe shale gas. The truth is you can’t make shale gas development safe or sustainable” van Rossum added.

In addition to a Foreword by Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, the report contains analyses by six experts chosen by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to represent a range of perspectives and professional specialties:

- **Michel Adams, P.E., LEED AP**, evaluated site and water issues including site disturbance, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, stream and surface water health, site restoration, and site planning.
- **Robert W. Howarth, Ph.D.**, an earth systems scientist with a focus on global climate change research, evaluated the impact of the performance standards on greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Paul Rubin**, a hydrogeologist with specialized expertise in both surface water and groundwater hydrology, evaluated water and contaminant transport issues.
- **Marvin Resnikoff, Ph.D., and Carol Ann Sudia** of Radioactive Waste Management Associates Radiation evaluated health and safety issues.
- **Tom Myers, Ph.D.**, a hydrologist, focused his review on groundwater quality and it's monitoring.

The report also provides a discussion of the better energy path that is available for fueling our region and country, drawing upon the writings of Dr. Mark Jacobson.

The report can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-CSSDExpertReviews>

Interviews with the report's experts have also been prepared and can be found online at:

<http://bit.ly/DRN-CSSDExpertVideos>

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