



For Immediate Release
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United States Department of Energy sets two new Hearings on the safety of Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas

Washington, D.C. - In May of this year, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced the establishment of the Energy Advisory Board Natural Gas Subcommittee on Fracking Issues to make recommendations on improving the “safety and environmental performance” of hydraulic fracturing in shale formations. Unfortunately, the committee is heavily weighted with industry interests and there are no health professionals or public from communities where drilling is occurring. See criticism of the Panel’s chair and make-up: <http://www.ewg.org/comm/ewgs-senior-counsel-tells-chair-doe-natural-gas-panel-he-must-step-down>

Public Hearings are being held to hear from “stakeholders” but there are a very few meetings with little public notice and they are not located in areas where gas drilling is occurring. One was held June 13 in Washington PA – the only one in the Marcellus Shale fairway -- and two more have been scheduled in the near future: June 28 and July 13, both in Washington, D.C.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is encouraging people to register to testify before the panel (sign up: shalegas@hq.doe.gov), especially health professionals or people living with gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Since the Subcommittee is also accepting written comment from the public, letters are being encouraged as well.

“This subcommittee is flawed due to the lack of objectivity on the panel and the missing public health expertise and gas drilling community members who can bring reality to the table”,

said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. “This raises our concern that the study will not reflect what is truly happening, particularly the inability of Pennsylvania and other States to stop the avalanche of pollution disasters and accidents that are occurring everywhere gas drilling goes”, van Rossum continued. “But we can’t let the committee hide in D.C. from the truth—please take the time to write a letter or testify”, concluded van Rossum.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network advises letters can be sent to: Renee Stone, U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20585, email to shalegas@hq.doe.gov or post on the subcommittee website at www.shalegas.energy.gov

The notice is below with instructions to sign up:

http://www.shalegas.energy.gov/resources/fr_notice_0628_0713.pdf

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