



For Immediate Release
June 9, 2011

Contact: Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director
215-692-2329

U.S. Department of Energy Wants to Hear from People in Drilled Communities

Washington PA – Residents of communities where drilling is occurring are encouraged to attend a Public Hearing Monday, June 13, 7:00-9:00 pm held by the U.S. Department of Energy Advisory Board Natural Gas Subcommittee on Fracking Issues at Washington Jefferson College in Washington, PA. An Action Alert distributed by Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other organizations is trying to spread the word about the Hearing since less than a week's notice was given about the event.

The Action Alert follows:

Please attend the U.S. Dept. Of Energy Hearing June 13 and tell your story!

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has called a last minute hearing to listen to what people have to say about living in drilling country. Please come share your story with these officials.

Monday, June 13, 2011

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (sign up to speak begins at 6:30 pm)

Washington Jefferson College

60 South Lincoln Street, Washington PA

In May, 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.

It's important that federal agencies investigate. But many organizations and citizens loudly voiced concern that many of the Subcommittee's members are closely tied to the oil and gas industry, that no one directly impacted by shale gas development was included, and that meetings were only being held in Washington, DC, far from the areas already damaged by drilling. See http://earthworksaction.org/PR_DOE-fracking-panel.cfm Health officials are also conspicuously missing from the DOE Board and essential to a full analysis of the issues.

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In response to criticism about the lack of input from impacted communities, the Subcommittee just announced it will hold a meeting in Washington, PA, on Monday, June 13. Members need to hear from people whose water, property, and health have been impacted by gas drilling.

This meeting is open to the public but space is limited. Come early to sign up to speak! Comments will be limited to two minutes. **Unfortunately, Energy in Depth, a pro-industry lobby group, is trying to fill all the speaking spots by offering “incentives”.** Apparently, one of their operatives seems to have sent out an email offering all comers: bus transportation or airfare, a hotel room, meals, and TICKETS FOR THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES V. METS GAME! If this “bribery” wasn’t such a serious perversion of the Hearing’s purpose, it would be a good comedy skit. For a copy of DRN’s comment to DOE on this disgraceful subterfuge:

http://delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/comment_to_DOE_sub_on_frack_6.9.11.pdf

And if you can’t make it there in person or have more information to share, you can submit a written statement and other documentation to Renee Stone, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20585, or by email to: shalegas@hq.doe.gov. The DOE Natural Gas Subcommittee on Fracking Issues website: www.shalegas.energy.gov

Comment to DOE:

June 9, 2011

Renee Stone
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20585

Re: Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Natural Gas Subcommittee Meeting June 13, 2011

Dear Ms. Stone and Committee Members,

I am attaching and imbedding below a copy of an email that apparently has been sent by a lobby organization to people to entice them to attend the DOE Hearing June 13 to speak up in support of gas drilling. I cannot attend the Hearing myself but I feel compelled to inform the Subcommittee of this effort to “incentivize” the attendance of people at your upcoming Hearing. Are they there because they got free tickets to the ball game, a free hotel room, free transportation and meals? I am shocked at this cynical approach to what should be a fair public hearing for people in impacted communities.

Also, please consider this as you organize the Hearing Monday night as there will doubtless be a push to fill up all the speaking slots with these “paid” speakers who are bused or flown in. I sent an earlier email asking about the process for signing up to speak so we could share this with our members.

Unfortunately, we have too often faced a push and shove match to get at the signup sheet at the start of similar Hearings. Please carefully consider how you will hear testimony and how you will set up a process that doesn’t engender aggressive behavior, which not only exposes people to danger but also chills public involvement through intimidation. I am sure you want to hear the genuine stories of people who are living with drilling and many of these residents are not expert at testimony and Hearing attendance and may be easily pushed aside or silenced by the lobby group.

The short timeline you have provided for this Hearing makes it very difficult to inform people that the Hearing is happening and for people to re-arrange their schedules to attend. We request that you consider other Hearing dates with a longer lead time throughout the shale fairway.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tracy Carluccio
Deputy Director
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Email copy:

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Department of Energy Meeting on Hydraulic Fracturing

Date:Thu, 9 Jun 2011 12:11:46 -0400

From:Thomas Shepstone <tom@energyindepth.org>

To:Undisclosed-recipients: <>;

There is an **extremely important meeting** coming up this Monday and we need folks to attend.

Here is the essential background, folks:

Department of Energy to Host Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Natural Gas Subcommittee Meeting

Washington, DC – On Monday, June 13, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy will host a public meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) Natural Gas Subcommittee at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. **The meeting will allow subcommittee members to hear directly from community members interested in the safety and environmental performance of hydraulic fracturing.**

WHAT:

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Natural Gas Subcommittee Meeting

WHEN:

Monday, June 13, 2011

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

WHERE: Washington Jefferson College

Olin Fine Arts Center

East Wheeling Street

Washington, PA

More information about the public meeting and the subcommittee can be obtained by visiting www.shalegas.energy.gov.

Obviously, even though it's short notice and a long ways off (we just learned about it ourselves) this is an extremely important event. We need as many of you from our region there as possible under the circumstances. Given the short notice and the distance, we are prepared to help make this happen. We can offer the following incentives to attend:

1. Bus transportation (we'll try to set something up with pickups in maybe Binghamton, Scranton and the Williamsport area and provide the details when you let us know of your interest).
2. A hotel room for the night of June 13th.
3. Your meals.
4. Tickets for the Pittsburgh Pirates game (they're playing the Mets that night)
5. Airfare (for older folks, especially..and for heads of landowner groups)

If you can do this, please let me know by return e-mail ASAP and we'll get back to you with the details once we know how many are willing to go.

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