

MARCELLUS MONTHLY

“All the Fracking
News that Fits”

JUNE 2013

Gasland Part II: June 20, FREE pre-release showing

PITTSBURGH: In 2010, *Gasland* earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary, and brought *fracking* into our national vocabulary. Director Josh Fox showed what “unconventional natural gas extraction” was beginning to do to his home state of Pennsylvania, and what it had already done to Colorado, Wyoming and Texas.

Now, in *Gasland, Part II*, his exploration moves from the pollution of our air and water into the “contamination of our democracy.” The new film raises the question, “When we understand how bad fracking is for us, why is it still so hard to stop?”

Gasland, Part II, will premiere on HBO later this summer; but has already brought rave reviews at New York City’s most prestigious film festival. It is now on a limited national tour, wrapping up in Pittsburgh on Thursday, June 20.

What the oil and gas companies don't want you to know about fracking



An unflinching investigation of the toxic influences polluting our democracy

GASLAND

PART II

Marcellus Protest is pleased to be one of the lead sponsors for this one-time event, at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 4141 Fifth Avenue (Oakland). Doors open at 6:00, with *Gasland, Part II*, to start at 7:00. Following the film, Josh Fox will be on-stage to respond to questions from 9:00 until 10:00.

Admission is free, and no tickets are required. There is ample seating; the hall accommodates up to 2300. Parking is available in the public garage (enter from Bigelow Blvd.) An accessible entrance and parking lot is on University Place.

For details and later updates, check [our website](#) or scan the code above.

One Earth, One Struggle: The fight for our lives against ‘extreme energy’ technology

PITTSBURGH: The strategy of ‘Divide and Conquer’ is as old as the origins of the animal kingdom. Members of more vulnerable species know that sticking together improves their chances of survival. Predators, for their part, work to isolate and overpower their victims one-by-one.

We are engaged in this timeless battle again, as our own human family responds to the *inhuman* threat from extreme energy technologies: exemplified by hydraulic fracturing of deep shales, but also encompassing nuclear reactors, mountain-top removal, the quarrying of tar sands, and deep-water and polar drilling.

The predator’s Divide-and-Conquer strategy plays out through pitting geographies and economic strata against each other, and by inciting phoney ‘pick your poison’ debates over which mode of extreme energy technology is better or worse than another.

A basic ‘geographic’ ploy is to isolate the sub-processes of a single technology, so that its alleged benefits and its ultimate costs will fall upon different communities. Take fracking, for example: its fresh water is obtained from one place, its waste water is dumped in another; its sand is mined in yet another, and its transient workers have their emotional roots in places far away from those homes, farms and forests that they’ve been hired to disrupt.

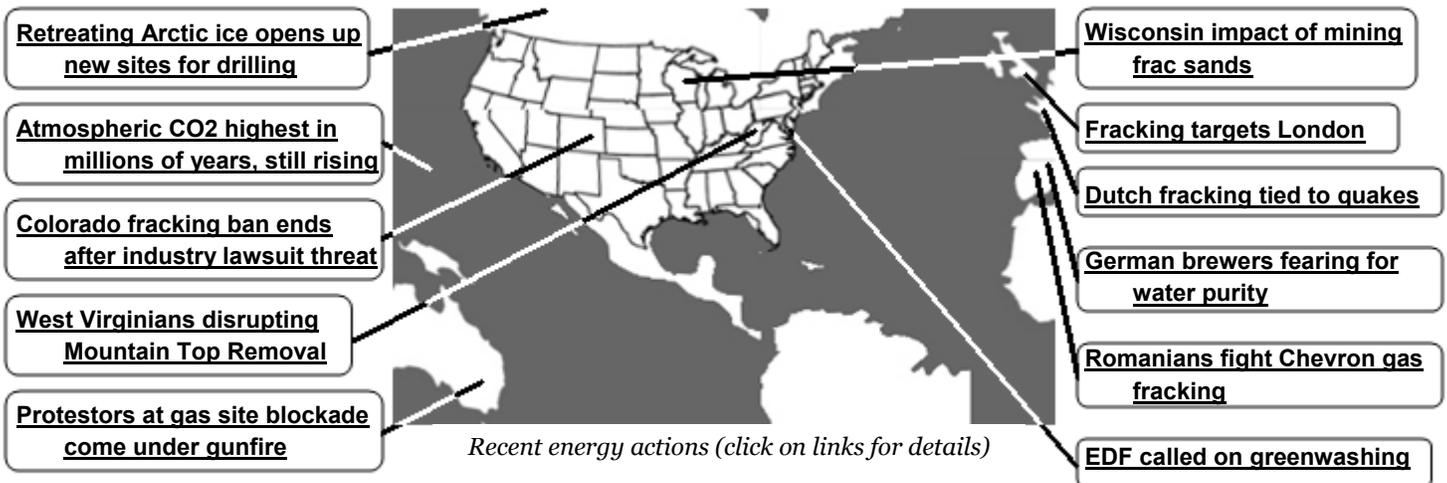
In Pennsylvania, the frackers tell us that “fracking fluid is just water and sand.” This is meant to sound benign, and at first it does (ignoring those other deadly additives), until we learn for ourselves that the “sand” isn’t from the beach: it’s strip-mined in Wisconsin, with environmental destruction and human health impacts comparable to the direct effects of fracking in our region.

In isolation, each sub-process is portrayed as ‘inevitable’, driven by other sub-processes which are too far away to understand or to influence. Thus, since ‘Fracking is already happening’ in

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‘Marcellus Protest’ is a project of the Thomas Merton Center (Pittsburgh, PA): www.thomasmertoncenter.org

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Pennsylvania, Ohioans are told that it's hopeless to fight against wastewater injection in their state — and that 'jobs' will be lost if the waste goes somewhere else. The question, "What does toxic wastewater do *to us all*?" isn't discussed in either state.

Cultural and economic differences are exploited as well. The promise of blue-collar 'jobs' is used to neutralize the 'elitist' warnings of scientists, while industry 'experts' are employed to trivialize the first-hand experiences of farmers and homeowners.

And Americans, made dependent on our cheap-energy lifestyle through the dismantling of public infrastructure, are shamed into silence by accusations of 'denying progress' to the peoples of other countries—whose own economies and autonomy are being undermined by the forces of extreme energy technology.

Finally, we are goaded into arguments about 'coal versus gas' or 'American gas versus foreign oil', when it should be clear that

there is no choice to be made. Under our free market ideology, no mode of capital-intensive extreme energy will surrender its market to another—each one appeals to its own constituencies (investors, workers, academics and politicians) for more money, longer hours, more exotic gadgets, more time, in order to meet the 'threat' from all the other modes. Unless we see them all as one, we will have them all at once: more and more and more.

Lately, Divide-and-Conquer is undercutting cooperation among environmental activists. Some of us are offered "a seat at the table" as reward for being "reasonable"; others are marginalized, to be picked-off in isolation.

The devastation from extreme energy technology is global and universal. Three times as much carbon-based fuel is already under development as our global climate can survive, and yet ever deeper deposits are being targeted, with ever higher costs of extraction. Anything that we can do, we must do; everything we do matters. We are in this together, fighting for our lives.

A Range of Resources

Please check out our 'Resources' page at www.marcellusprotest.org/resources, and follow us on Facebook ([MarcellusProtest](https://www.facebook.com/MarcellusProtest)) and Twitter ([@Marcellus_SWPA](https://twitter.com/Marcellus_SWPA)). Here is a sampling of our recent recommendations:

"Bob Edgar: Speaking Out": The late CEO of Common Cause, and former head of the National Council of Churches talks about the influence of political money on gas drilling and the role of the faith community.

Public **letter to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**: Sixty-eight grassroots organizations, scientists and environmental activists make the case against the so-called 'Center for Sustainable Shale Development'.

Upcoming Events in June and beyond:

(Full details, with latest updates, and a more extensive list of events, on-line at www.marcellusprotest.org/event_calendar.)

June 18 (Fayette City, PA): ***FracTracker Training (6:00pm)***. Learn to use FracTracker with the Mountain Watershed Association and the FracTracker Alliance. For registration information, see [our online calendar](#).

June 20 (Pittsburgh, PA): ***Gasland, Part II (7:00pm)***. See our story on page 1 and [our online calendar](#).

July 27 (Butler, PA): ***Fossil-free Energy Fair (noon—5:00pm)***. Learn more about renewable energy through speakers, vendors, music and entertainment. Details at [Marcellus Outreach Butler](#).

Updated information on these topics (with links to original sources), along with our calendar of upcoming events, and other resources, can be found at www.marcellusprotest.org.