



RIVERTOWN COALITION

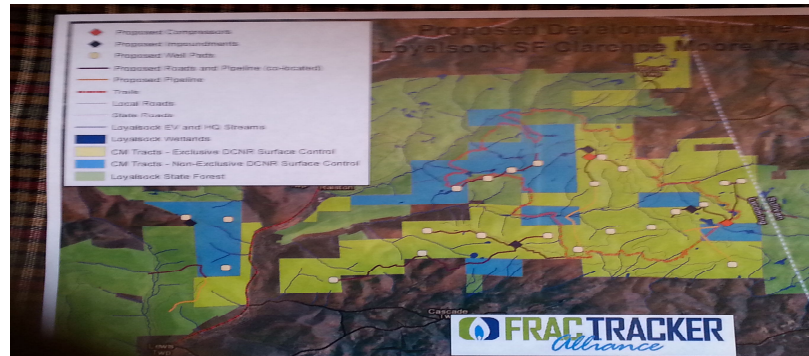
FOR CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

SUMMER 2013

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

Loyalsock Under Attack!

This map shows the 4 compressor stations (red diamonds), multiple well pads (white dots) and pipelines (red lines) that are proposed to go into the Loyalsock State Forest. You can view this at <http://www.fractracker.org/2013/05/clarence-moore/>



The Importance of Loyalsock to Pennsylvania

From the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Fact Sheet:

The Loyalsock State Forest is 114,494 acres of forest that straddles 3 counties (Bradford, Lycoming and Sullivan). It has nearly 200 miles of marked and unmarked hiking trails to include the **Old Loggers Path** which traverses the valleys of Rock Run and Pleasant Stream and other sights on its 27 mile trail. ~ Because of a lawsuit in the 1980's by Clarence Moore asserting that he owned the subsurface rights to approximately 25,000 acres of the Loyalsock in Lycoming County, which includes much of the Old Loggers Path and the two streams, there is **contention about surface and subsurface rights**. ~ In 1989 the Commonwealth Court found that the Clarence Moore rights to enter upon the surface expired on about 18,000 acres leaving 7,000 acres still at risk. These tracks are scattered throughout the 25, 000 acres. ~There is **legal disagreement** about the degree of control offered by the 1989 decision, including over the potential impact of the State Supreme Court's 2009 decision in Belden and Blake vs DCNR. Making things worse, the Clarence Moore subsurface ownership

estate has been divided between **Anadarko Petroleum Corp. (owning 50%)** and the DCNR believes the other 50% is under a lease agreement with Southwestern Energy Corp.

In cases of subsurface ownership of state forests the DCNR historically has Surface Use Agreements (SUA) between the department and the company to access of their holdings. Because of the particular ecological, recreational, economic and legal complexities of this land track, the DCNR has been negotiating a Surface Development Management Agreement (SDMA) which is different from a SUA and different from a permitting process. As of the June 3 hearing nothing had been signed.

You can access more information on this at www.dcnr.state.pa.us then choose "Gas Drilling on State Forests" under the Quick Links.

However, what has the environmental community upset is that this process has been moving forward **without public hearings** or public input. Hikers were finding survey stakes and unusual equipment in the forest and began to ask questions. Because of public pressure the DCNR held a hearing on June 3, at 4pm at Lycoming College. Unless you are in an environmental group that forwards alerts, you May not have known it was going to happen.

There were about 500 people attending and the 2 hour scheduled comment time (5 min per person) needed to be extended over an hour. There were people still standing in line to comment when the school needed to close at 7pm. **All of the comments were about the value and need for these unique PUBLIC lands to be preserved.** None supported drilling. There was a map available from Frac Tracker Alliance showing the proposed 4 compressor stations, at least 9 well pads and 3 pipelines all lacing the entire track of land. Add to your mental image the 750 truck trips for water to and fro for each fracking event at each well pad and then “listen to” the compressor stations that have caused cracks in peoples homes who live near to them and you can begin to imagine the change from the pristine

silence of the forest with running streams to a commercial zone. The Old Loggers Path has a world wide reputation as a wonderful hike. How will this affect the tourist industry connected with this area?

There is **no NEED** for this extraction except Anadarko Petroleum Corp. profits. It will not benefit the people of Pennsylvania, and because it is to be exported will likely contribute to a rise in local gas prices. So what’s the rush to destroy our natural icon? You can share your comments with the DCNR (address above), your elected representatives (addresses on the cover page) and Anadarko (R.A. Walker is the Chairman, President and CEO of Anadarko-ventures@anadarko.com 1-800-800-1101)!

Anadarko Petroleum Company is a publicly traded stock in the gas and oil industry. The headquarters is in the Anadarko Tower, The Woodlands, TX. 77380 Their revenue in 2011 was \$13.967 billion dollars and as of December 2011 had 4800 employees. Anadarko’s operations in the United States include oil and natural-gas exploration and production onshore in the Lower 48 states, onshore Alaska, and the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The Company’s operations in the United States accounted for 87% of total sales volumes during 2011 and 90% of total proved reserves at year-end 2011. It was one of the companies working with BP and involved in the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. They settled with BP to pay \$4 billion dollars in those damages. (Wikipedia)

Gasland II

On Wednesday June 19th over 900 people gathered at the Williamsport Community Arts Center to view Gasland II and to join the Q&A with the film maker Josh Fox. As in Gasland, there are scenes of the problems that arise because of water contamination and air pollution. There are real people telling their real stories of lives changed as dreams are shattered by neighbors drills, illnesses that make it necessary to move from long held family lands and the problems to haul in fresh water because their groundwater is no longer useable.

The additional information in this film includes the response and non-response of the government depending on times in the election cycle, orders from “above” and general secrecy in the hearing process for discussing policy decisions that affect the electorate. The message continues to show that fracking is fracturing more than shale.

If you would like to see this film for yourself it will be on HBO on July 8, at 9pm again on July 14 and other times ...check your schedules...there is full information at

www.hbo.com/documentaries/gasland-part-ii/index.html

Photo by Wendy Lynne Lee

