



Pennsylvania

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News and Events

2025 Shale Gas and Public Health Conference



On February 27th PSR Pennsylvania, along with the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters and the Department of Environmental and Energy Engineering at Duquesne University hosted “2025 Shale Gas and Public Health: New Directions” at the Power Center at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

More than a dozen speakers and panelists presented throughout the day, including PSR Pennsylvania’s Executive Director Tonyehn Verkitus and board member Dr. Pouné Saberi.

Topics ranged from the latest findings on the health effects of shale gas production to testimony from frontline citizens and industry workers.

Video recordings of the conference are available [here](#).



New Bill to Consider Cumulative Impacts

Pennsylvania is full of communities like Chester, PA, that have endured pollution and health impacts from multiple harmful industries. In some, a legacy of mining or drilling has exposed and dumped toxins. In others (or some of the same areas), plants, factories, or other types of manufacturing or processing have spewed pollutants into the air, water, and soil.

People living in these areas face worse health outcomes, including increased risk of cancers, respiratory issues, and other morbidities and earlier mortality. These communities very often also have less access to medical treatment, health insurance, and sustainable, well-paying employment. ([Click here](#) to learn more about environmental justice communities from the DEP's website.)

Currently these communities have little protection against additional intrusion by polluting industries. New permits are reviewed without considering the legacy of harm from previous or existing facilities and polluting industries may specifically target these places because the residents lack the financial and political clout to challenge planned infrastructure, compared to wealthier communities.

Read the entire blog post [here](#).

PSR PA On Stage

PSR PA partnered with Philadelphia's Theatre Exile on the solo show HEART RIPPED OUT TWICE AND SO CAN YOU!, a (mostly) comedy about pain that explores the challenge of inviting new humans into a world of climate crisis. The play was followed by an audience discussion with PSR PA board and staff about how we can all take actions to advocate for better protections around environment and health.



Quantitative Environmental Radiologic Assessment of Oil and Gas Exploration Activities Using ^{226}Ra Concentration to Estimate ^{210}Po and ^{210}Pb Dose

Read the [new publication](#) on the release of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) into the environment during fracking and the exposures to workers and the public. This work was made possible by a PSR PA grant from the Park Foundation and co-authored by former employees Laura Dagley and Tammy Murphy, and CHP PA member Dr. Marsha Haley.

Legislative Updates

Here are key legislative topics in Pennsylvania that PSR PA is looking at this month:

SB 102: Stripping Municipalities of Impact Fees & Local Control

What It Does

SB 102 ties municipal impact fee revenue to local fracking regulations. Municipalities with zoning laws restricting or banning fracking could lose vital funding for infrastructure and community programs.

Why It Matters

Financial Hardship: Cuts off essential funding for towns protecting public health.

Threat to Local Governance: Undermines municipal control over zoning and land use.

Legal Uncertainty: Opens local regulations to legal challenges, delaying funding and creating financial instability.

This bill pressures municipalities to choose between financial security and environmental protections.

SB 186: Ending Pennsylvania's Participation in RGGI

What It Does

SB 186 would withdraw Pennsylvania from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a program that reduces pollution, creates jobs, and lowers energy costs.

Why It Matters

Higher Energy Bills: Ends funding for energy efficiency programs that lower utility costs.

Job Loss: Slows growth in the clean energy sector, reducing job opportunities.

Energy Dependence: Increases reliance on out-of-state fossil fuels.

Worse Air Quality: Increases pollution and public health risks.

Staying in RGGI means lower bills, more jobs, and healthier communities. Exiting the program benefits polluters at the expense of Pennsylvanians.

SB 187: Creating an Independent Energy Office

What It Does

This bill proposes an Independent Energy Office (IEO) to provide nonpartisan analysis of Pennsylvania's energy policies.

Why It Matters

Weakens DEP Authority: Undermines the Department of Environmental Protection's role in energy regulation.

Limits Legislative Oversight: Shifts control to an unelected office with a six-year term.

Risk of Politicization: Appointments are made by a political committee, raising concerns about bias and lack of accountability.

This bill creates a parallel energy authority that could contradict DEP regulations and reduce lawmakers' ability to shape energy policy.

PSR PA IN THE NEWS

[PGW could explore clean energy with geothermal pilot project at Philly's McCloskey Elementary School](#)

[Shameless lobbying](#)

[Speakers at Pittsburgh climate rally assail Trump, urge local action](#)

Find more articles [on our website](#).

Other News & Events

Tuesday, April 8th at the State Capitol in Harrisburg



CeaseFirePA invites you to stand with fellow gun safety advocates at **Pennsylvania's End Gun Violence Advocacy Day** on **Tuesday, April 8th**, at the **State Capitol in Harrisburg**. This is a critical opportunity to urge our legislators to take meaningful action to save lives and protect our communities.

Please go [here to RSVP](#).

PSR PA appreciates your support!

Make a donation today!



We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or suggestions to share with PSR PA please send them to info@psrpa.org.

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