

## A Troubling Deal Between PA Governor Shapiro and CNX Resources Allows Voluntary Self-regulation of a Fracking Company

***“Lives are at stake, and fracking companies must be regulated by the government, not by the fracking companies themselves.”***

***- PSR Pennsylvania Board President Ned Ketyer, MD FAAP***

*The deal allows Gov. Shapiro to escape doing what he promised and hold CNX – a company found criminally responsible for violating the PA Air Pollution Control Act – and other oil and gas companies accountable for their actions uncovered by the Grand Jury. The agreement allows CNX to self-monitor, self-report, and self-analyze -- essentially, to regulate itself. - PSR Pennsylvania*

[PSR PA’s statement on the deal.](#)

1. In 2021, CNX Resources was [criminally charged with violating the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act](#). The company pleaded no contest and was fined \$1.6 million. Since 2020, CNX has been [cited for over 400 violations](#) of Pennsylvania law, according to the [FrackTracker Alliance](#). Clearly, CNX cannot be trusted. The company has demonstrated repeatedly that it is not a good-faith partner for Governor Shapiro or the citizens of Pennsylvania.

2. Experimenting to see whether CNX will accurately and transparently disclose pollution data on its own puts the lives of children and adults in Pennsylvania at risk.

Extensive studies of fracking, including [three recent, state-funded studies](#) conducted by the University of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, show that people who live near fracking have an elevated risk of childhood lymphoma, asthma, and low birth-weight babies.

3. The CNX/Shapiro deal, which allows gas wells to operate only 600 feet from occupied buildings, is unacceptable. There is no established safe distance from a fracked gas well, and a [growing body of research](#) indicates that the closer people live to such wells, the higher the risk of having negative health impacts. Governor Shapiro's own 2020 Grand Jury Recommendations, issued when he was Pennsylvania's Attorney General, [call for a 2,500 foot setback](#) from all buildings.

4. The people of Pennsylvania deserve to live near companies that are held to a higher standard than this "self-regulation." Under the CNX/Shapiro deal, CNX may delay or suspend real-time reporting at its discretion. Lives are at stake, and fracking companies must be strictly regulated by the government. The deal between Governor Shapiro and CNX is officially named the [Statement on the signing of the Statement of Mutual Interests](#), but those interests do not appear to include the health of Pennsylvania's residents.

There is a fundamental conflict of interest at the heart of "self-regulation." "Self-regulation" allows powerful companies to dodge accountability, sometimes with tragic results. Deregulation and self-policing have led to disasters such as the BP Oil Spill of 2010.

5. Governor Shapiro's decision to allow CNX to selectively and performatively share pollution data, anticipated chemicals, and self-analysis of radioactive waste procedures from only a small number of its wells –despite the continued risks to public health– demonstrates weak leadership from the governor. We must hold him to a higher standard as well.

“Public health scientists don’t expose populations to potentially harmful chemicals in order to assess their impact on health. The experiment being conducted by Governor Shapiro and CNX – allowing fracking to operate, exposing residents to potentially dangerous chemicals and radioactivity, and then waiting for health and environmental impacts to be revealed – is one that has been going on for way too long in Pennsylvania. As scientific experiments go, allowing fracking to operate in the vicinity where people live and where children play and go to school is unethical.” - PSR Pennsylvania

*Thanks to the [Center for Coalfield Justice](#) for providing resources. [Here](#) is their statement on the CNX/Shapiro deal.*