

PA Assembly Members and DEP Officials,

A direct quote from the PA Auditor General to Governor Corbett regarding the performance audit of the DEP on July 21, 2014:

"In conclusion, as evidenced by this audit, DEP needs assistance. It is underfunded, understaffed, and does not have the infrastructure in place to meet the continuing demands placed upon the agency by expanded shale gas development. Shale gas development offers significant benefits to our commonwealth and our nation, but these benefits cannot come at the expense of the public's trust, health, and wellbeing."

We are well aware that changes have been made at the PA DEP since the report's conclusion in 2012. It is clear that the changes have not kept pace with the expansion of shale gas development. You have allowed for the citizens of Pennsylvania to become the collateral damage for development of shale gas. Our water is contaminated at an alarming rate. Millions of gallons of residual waste are accumulating rapidly. Gas wells continue to encroach on schools and densely populated areas, thereby increasing health and safety risks to the community.

Yet, despite this report and many others, the DEP continues to issue unconventional well permits "according to the law".

Each and everyone of you now has this report and the plethora of research and information that The Mars Parent Group and numerous additional health and environmental groups have shared with you over the past four months and past 10 years respectively.

Each of you will be held accountable and are responsible to now act on this information immediately. In whatever capacity and responsibility you have in the Pennsylvania government, you each have the duty to protect the citizens of Pennsylvania first. Developing shale gas is a far distant second. Monetary gains will no longer hide the harm and risk that communities have endured.

Do not issue another unconventional well permit. Corrective action needs to take place. The DEP needs the proper resources to oversee and regulate what has already been allowed prior to adding to that burden.

We expect a response to this email, including what action you will be taking to protect the citizens of Pennsylvania and the children in the Mars Area School District.

Best regards,

*Mars Parent Group*