

Athens County Commissioners



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Resolution Athens County Commissioners, Athens County, Ohio

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio has found that hosting a class II injection well provides no known benefit to the community, no guarantees of compensation and no sustainable financial, business or community betterment opportunities for the County. Class II injection wells do not foster job growth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the chemicals used in the well drilling and fracturing processes, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has noted that radioactive materials have been found in "fairly high concentrations" in liquid waste associated with the oil/gas operations; and

WHEREAS, liquid hazardous waste from fracking and shale fuel extraction processes is known to contain toxic levels of contaminants, including unknown quantities of undisclosed chemical additives used in hydraulic fracturing fluid as well as contaminants from sources underground. Benzene, xylene, naphthalene, formaldehyde, cadmium, mercury, arsenic, total dissolved solids, and radioactive material, including radium 226 (at levels that may exceed 300 times permitted industrial effluent discharge levels and 3600 times drinking water standards), are among the known contaminants. Companies engaging in the use of this drilling technique have not fully disclosed chemicals used, their concentrations and volume; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas industry toxic, radioactive waste is legally exempt from federal hazardous waste regulations and important portions of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. These toxic fluids are legally designated "non-hazardous" by virtue of these exemptions, but if tested, they would be deemed hazardous and would be required to be disposed of in Class I hazardous waste injection wells; and

WHEREAS, in Ohio, Class II injection wells are poorly regulated, are not monitored for contaminant migration, and according to ODNR regulation can even be sited in wellhead protection areas; and even the fossil fuel extraction industry's engineers and scientists acknowledge that all wells eventually fail, many of them within a few years; and Class I injection wells in Ohio, which are built to stricter standards, have leaked high volumes of toxic substances into groundwater; and state and federal records reveal that during the years 2007 to 2010 one out of every six injection wells inspected failed mechanical integrity testing. ODNR has a long history of ignoring repeated, flagrant violations; and many existing Class II wells are old production wells not even built to the current inadequate state standards for injection. Our communities also face significant risk from truck accidents and spills; and

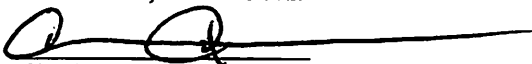
WHEREAS, Injection wells have caused earthquakes in Ohio with the largest including a 4.0 magnitude in Youngstown, Ohio. Earthquakes potentially associated with injection wells have also occurred in Washington County, Belmont County, Monroe County, Vinton County.

WHEREAS, due to the known and unknown risk factors of the injection of waste, and in the interest of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, the Athens County Commissioners are in opposition to the continued use of existing class II wells as well as the issuance of any new permits issued for Class II wells.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Athens County Commissioners join the ranks of citizens and municipalities in supporting Ohio Senate Bill 50, and opposing the injection of toxic oil and gas waste due to known and unknown risks and the potential irreparable harm to our community,


Lenny Eliason, President


Chris Chmiel, Vice President


Charlie Adkins

CC: Governor Kasich
ODNR Director Zehringer
OEPA Director Craig Butler
Local Rep(s)
Local Senator

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