

Etta Albright

The shale gas industrial complex has and continues to threaten human and environmental health without respect for Article I Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The use of high volume slick water for unconventional horizontal hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in shale has damaged water supplies beyond use. Some of the proof is documented as in the case of residents in Dimock, PA. The shale gas industrial complex has corrupted agencies in the state designed to protect human and environmental health with laws that prevent public disclosure of settlements and even interfered with Physicians reporting of illnesses suspected to be related to toxins from the industry.

While fossil fuels have provided consumers with comforts pleasures and conveniences beyond need and expectation, they are now a known factor in human activity induced global warming with increasing extremes of weather patterns that has and is causing devastating destruction around the world.

It is immoral to continue behaviors that contribute to that devastation and that is why fracking and all parts of the shale gas industrial complex must be banned and renewable energy solutions sought.

Simply stated: Human and environmental health is sacred. Do no harm. Violations of Creation/environment violate the Creator.

Members of The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania has an ongoing research study project, Shale Gas Extraction and Public Health since 2009. Funding is from the Colcom Foundation and the Heinz Endowments to the League of Women Voters of PA Citizen Education Fund. A Resource Guide, Shale Gas Extraction and Public Health was initially developed and published in 2012-2103 and has been updated annually through 2017. The fifth annual conference was held November 13, 2017. Presenters from across the United States have participated in the conferences giving testimony to the concerns for public health from the shale gas industrial complex. The Commission is encouraged to consult the list of references in the Resource Guide.

The resourceful Information obtained through attending the Shale and Public Health conferences, along with my prior knowledge that "fracking" was allegedly determined and promoted as safe in Pennsylvania without scientific data collected in Pennsylvania to support such claim has raised grave concern. It essence it has been a trial by error industry with unsuspecting citizens left with prominent or yet to be realized devastating life altering consequences.

Then there is the news that scientists working for the fossil fuel industries lied about the negative impact of fossil fuels on the environment. Why would the Commission not ban fracking?