



FRACTRACKER
ALLIANCE



A Formula for Disaster: Calculating Risk at the Ethane Cracker

On January 18, 2016, Potter Township Supervisors approved conditional use permits for Shell Chemical Appalachia's proposed ethane cracker facility in Beaver County, PA. A type of petrochemical facility, an ethane cracker uses energy and the by-products of so-called natural gas to make ethylene, a building block of plastics. FracTracker Alliance has produced informative articles on the jobs numbers touted by the industry, and the considerable negative air impacts of the proposed facility. In the first in a series of new articles, we look at the potential hazards of ethane cracker plants in order to begin calculating the risk of a disaster in Beaver County.

[Read More](#)



Dig deeper into Mariner East 2's risks to watersheds using newly available data from the DEP. Our new map shows the extent of damage that could result from 1,222 stream, 34 pond, and 708 wetland crossings, as well as how to minimize those impacts.

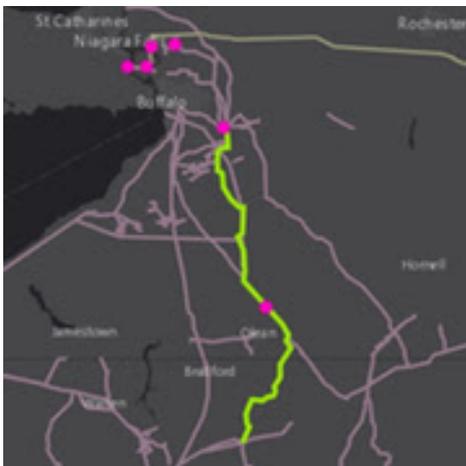
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Beating the Winter Blues

Friends, your gifts and notes lift our spirits. If you have not had a chance to donate yet, please consider doing so now. Gifts of any size help us so much. Your support makes our work possible.

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Northern Access Project: Exporting PA's Marcellus Gas Northward

Explore our new map of the proposed Northern Access Project, consisting of a 97-mile-long 24" pipeline that would carry natural gas from PA to NY.

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More offshore drilling and “fracking” in California

FracTracker Alliance reviewed data published by DOGGR on permitted offshore wells. (DOGGR refers to the Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources, which regulates drilling in CA). The DOGGR database only lists “spud” (drilling) and completion dates for 71 wells - a mere 1.3% of the 5,435 total offshore wells. Using API identification numbers as a timeline, we actually find that it is likely that 238 wells have been drilled offshore since the start of 2012. To supplement Consumer Watchdog's new report, this article explores California’s regulatory framework, existing data, and data discrepancies - as offshore oil and gas development is expanding in the state.

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New Maps

- [CA Offshore Oil & Gas Development & SB4-Approved Well Stimulations](#)
- [Mariner East 2 Technical Deficiencies](#)
- [OH Utica Oil & Gas Production \(2011 - Q3 2016\)](#)
- [Oil & Gas & Water Monitoring in the Susquehanna Basin](#)
- [PA Ethane Cracker Hazards](#)

New Maps continued...

- [Proposed Northern Access Project](#)

Updated Maps

- [OH Shale Viewer](#) (includes proposed natural gas power plants)
- [OH Shale Water Demand & Waste Disposal](#)
- [PA Drilling Waste Disposed of in NY](#)



An Introduction to the Susquehanna River Basin Impacts Project

In partnership with the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter and Clean Water Action, a new series on our blog is dedicated to tracking the impacts of oil and gas development in the Susquehanna River Basin in PA. A significant component of Susquehanna River Basin impacts can be attributed to expanding oil and gas development. How will the Susquehanna River Watershed withstand future impacts from the oil and gas industry given the limited oversight of the Susquehanna River

Basin Commission? A first step in understanding the problem is to look at the state of the watershed today.

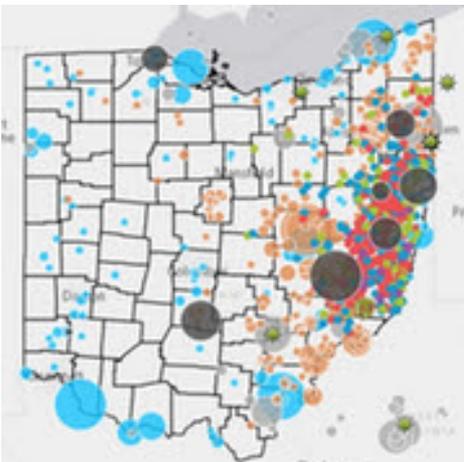
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World Class Dunes & Great Lakes Barrens at Risk at Ludington

Guest article by Dave Dister, Consulting Ecologist, on the risks posed to the Great Lakes Barrens and nearby dunes from frac sand mining in Ludington, MI.

[Read More](#)



Updated OH Oil & Gas Map

We now have the locations of eight of the credible natural gas power plants proposed in Ohio, along with the jobs they cite during construction and operations. We also now have a complete inventory of 118 existing power plants, including 25 natural gas facilities.

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Upcoming Event: Pipeline Incident Analysis Lecture

The Youngstown State Univ. Lecture Series on Energy and the Environment continues this Spring Semester with an online lecture in March by FracTracker's Matt Kelso on his updated pipeline incident analysis.

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