



FRACTRACKER
ALLIANCE



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Commonwealth Residents Impacted by Fracking Industry Disappointed by Pa. Gov. Josh Shapiro's Track Record

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Pennsylvania residents in fracking-impacted communities have expressed feelings of betrayal and abandonment by Gov. Josh Shapiro, whose recent policies as governor do not fulfill his campaign promises. This sentiment reflects a growing concern among these communities.

Residents in fracking regions across Pennsylvania have long faced environmental, health, and economic challenges due to the industry. They hoped Shapiro, who campaigned on promises of environmental protection and community welfare as Pennsylvania attorney general, would be their advocate. However, recent decisions and perceived inaction on critical issues have led to widespread disappointment.

In a 2023 press release announcing a [partnership with the fracked gas company CNX](#), Gov. Shapiro stated, "My Administration is setting a new standard for Pennsylvania's natural gas to be produced in the most responsible and sustainable way anywhere in the world."

Michael Steinstraw, who resides within 2,500 feet of the [CNX NV110](#) "Radical Transparency" site in East Finley Township, has had months of unexplained medical issues including muscle cramping and nerve pain. His water was discolored, but he didn't know to file a complaint with Pennsylvania DEP until a community organizer knocked on his door. Within 48 hours of the water test, CNX was required to provide a water buffalo for Steinstraw to access clean water. His calls for the governor to visit have gone unanswered.

"It seems like no one at the governor's office will help me. I don't see an end in sight to this nightmare. I shouldn't have to rely on anyone for water," Steinstraw said. "All I want is for CNX and the governor to fix this. The governor needs to come to my home and explain what is happening."

“Expanding no-drill zones in Pennsylvania from the required 500 feet to 2,500 feet” was one of former Attorney General Shapiro’s eight recommendations included in the Forty-Third Statewide Investigating Grand Jury report.

Gov. Shapiro’s statements and actions starkly contrast with his previous attitude towards the fracking industry during his time as attorney general. “There remains a profound gap between our Constitutional mandate for clean air and pure water, and the realities facing Pennsylvanians who live in the shadow of fracking giants and their investors,” Shapiro said at the time.

Recent polling data from Data for Progress shows that Pennsylvanians are increasingly demanding an end to fracking. “With 25 percent of respondents advocating for an immediate halt and another 30 percent supporting a phased approach, it’s clear that a majority of our residents are calling for significant change.” said Shannon Smith, FracTracker Alliance executive director. “Governor Shapiro needs to listen to the voices of those who are suffering from the adverse effects of this industry and take decisive action to protect our communities and environment.”

The primary concerns among these communities include:

- Inadequate regulation and oversight: Residents believe that the current regulations and oversight of the fracking industry are insufficient to protect their health and the environment.
- Lack of transparency: Many feel that the state government, under Shapiro's leadership, has not been transparent about the risks and impacts of fracking.
- Unmet campaign promises: Governor Shapiro had pledged to prioritize clean energy and stricter environmental protections, yet residents see little progress in these areas.

“The behavior of Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Governor Josh Shapiro seem like the behavior of two completely different people,” said Jodi Borello, Center for Coalfield Justice community organizer and herself an impacted resident. “Pennsylvania constituents are furious, heartbroken, sick, and tired.”

Pennsylvanians across the commonwealth rely on elected officials to respond to the abundance of research and lived experience showing that fracking cannot be done without sacrificing public safety, health, and well-being. Gov. Shapiro has failed to show up for communities that he promised to protect. If Gov. Shapiro can travel across the state as he did last weekend to attend Picklesburgh and a Pirates game, surely he can show up in gas patch communities and be a champion for residents of Pennsylvania whose health has been seriously harmed by fracking.

Despite growing concerns from Pennsylvania communities about the impacts of fracking, there has been little political will to adopt the recommendations of the 43rd Statewide Grand Jury. It is crucial for all elected officials to address the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Pennsylvanians across the commonwealth are urging their representatives to prioritize public

safety, health, and well-being based on extensive research and lived experiences showing the challenges associated with fracking.

Note to Editors: For interviews with impacted residents, please contact Shannon Smith, FracTracker Alliance Executive Director, at smith@fractracker.org or (814) 449-0659.

For more information on how the fossil fuel industry impacts Pennsylvania communities, visit [FracTracker Alliance](#) and [Center for Coalfield Justice](#).

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FracTracker Alliance is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that studies, maps, and communicates the risks and impacts of oil, gas, and petrochemical development to advance just energy alternatives that protect public health, natural resources, and the climate.

Center for Coalfield Justice is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to improve policy and regulations for the oversight of fossil fuels extraction and use; to educate, empower, and organize coalfield residents; and to protect public and environmental health.