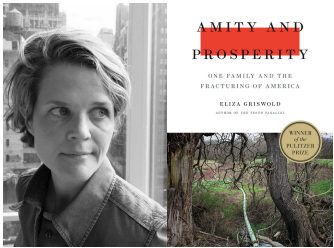


3344 Route 130, Suite D
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Harrison City, PA 15636

Connecting in New Ways

Your health and safety is our top priority. Due to the impact of COVID-19, we are not holding in-person events. But connecting with you is important to us. Instead of holding in-person events, we will continue to hold online events. If you would like to learn more about any of our events, you can find more information on our website www.protectpt.org/actions-events or by emailing Mary@protectpt.org.

While virtual events bring their own challenges, they also bring new opportunities. In May, almost 200 people from multiple states participated in a discussion with Pulitzer-Prize winning author Eliza Griswold about her book *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America*. The discussion centered around the events that have unfolded since the book was written and what those stories mean for residents now.



Several people have also been participating in our weekly virtual lunch hours, Thursdays at noon on Youtube. If you have missed any of our virtual events, you can find all the recordings on our website www.protectpt.org/eventvideos.



A few highlights of our virtual lunch hour series have included:

- **Climate Strike Youth Leaders** Leandra Mira, Maddie Ryan, Benjamin Gutschow and Marie Kessler Kaminski
- **Environmental Monitoring with Environmental Health Project and Protect PT** with Dr. David Brown, Public Health Toxicologist at EHP
- **What is Leachate?** with Dr. John Stolz, Professor of Environmental Microbiology at Duquesne University
- **Words Have Power with Young Voices for the Planet** Director Lynne Cherry and Youth Ambassador Jaysa Hunter-Mellers



We hope you've enjoyed the lunch hours. If you would like to share feedback, please take our survey bit.ly/pphlunchhour.

Virtual events are just one way to stay connected. You can follow Protect PT on social media (including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube) @ProtectPT and @PromotePT. Recently, Protect PT also joined the campaign network, a social platform dedicated to individuals and organizations interested in environmental issues. Join Protect PT on the campaign network at bit.ly/PPTNetwork.

Protect PT



Newsletter, Summer'20 Edition

Reminding the DEP of Their Duty

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the PA Department of Environmental Protection has closed their offices, halted inspections, and cancelled public file reviews and many hearings. However, they have allowed operations to continue, putting residents at greater risk of harm since these developments are not monitored and many residents are home more than ever before due to the virus. Protect PT and Mountain Watershed Association wrote to the DEP about the dangers of this lack of oversight.

Furthermore, the DEP continues to review new permits. In June, Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill applied for a permit to evaporate leachate (liquid runoff) on site. The landfill started accepting fracking waste in 2010 according to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. The landfill piped leachate to Belle Vernon Municipal Authority until May 2019 then started trucking it to treatment facilities in Pennsylvania and Ohio, exceeding their permit and constituting unlawful conduct deemed a public nuisance. Evaporating leachate from fracking waste would send Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, which include Carbon Monoxide), Radium and other toxic substances into the air, endangering sanitary workers and nearby residents.

Protect PT, along with over 130 residents, wrote to the DEP to request they hold a public hearing for this permit. DEP has not responded to these requests. Based on a Consent Order between Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill and PA DEP, the landfill would be required to apply for other permits: Waste Permit 100277 and Air Permit TV-65-00767 and NPDES Permit PA0092355 with the Bell Vernon Municipal Authority to discharge water into the Monongahela River.

Towards the end of June, PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced the grand jury’s report on fracking in Pennsylvania. The report outlines several failures on the part of the industry and DEP to protect the rights of Pennsylvanians. It also lists several recommendations such as increasing the setback distance to 2,500 feet, requiring fracking companies to publicly disclose all chemicals used, and other protective measures. Shapiro also announced a new fracking hotline for people to call to report potential violations from fracking development.

Reimagining the Turtle Creek Watershed and Airshed Communities Plus

If you reside in the Turtle Creek Watershed or nearby, you are invited to be part of reimagining your community to be more sustainable and equitable. The Reimagine TCWAC+ group is meeting virtually every month to continue learning more about regenerative methods and planning next steps for the working group projects. Currently, the five project areas include Food and Agriculture, Landscaping and Land Management, Renewable Infrastructure, Single-Use Plastics Diversion, and Health and Wellness. If you would like to learn more about the Reimagine TCWAC+ initiative or join one of the meetings, visit the Reimagine TCWAC+ facebook page or email reimaginetcwac@gmail.com.

IS FRACKING WASTE FROM MUNICIPAL LANDFILLS IMPACTING OUR WATERWAYS?

1. **DIG UP THE EARTH**
When a spill occurs, the waste is buried under a layer of soil. This prevents the waste from being exposed to the air and water. However, the waste can still leak out of the ground and contaminate the water.

2. **DUMP IT AT THE LANDFILL**
The waste is transported to a landfill. The landfill is a place where waste is buried under a layer of soil. This prevents the waste from being exposed to the air and water. However, the waste can still leak out of the ground and contaminate the water.

3. **TRUCK IT TO TREATMENT**
The waste is transported to a treatment facility. The treatment facility is a place where waste is treated. This prevents the waste from being exposed to the air and water. However, the waste can still leak out of the ground and contaminate the water.

4. **AND THEN WE DRINK IT**
The waste is transported to a drinking water facility. The drinking water facility is a place where water is treated. This prevents the waste from being exposed to the air and water. However, the waste can still leak out of the ground and contaminate the water.

Learn about the impacts of fracking leachate with this infographic

Fracking Hotline:
570-904-2643
fracking@attorneygeneral.gov

REIMAGINE TURTLE CREEK

Reimagine a brighter future with this poster

Health and Safety First

Our office reopened to the public June 15 with staggered staffing and other safety measures in place. For your safety and the safety of our staff, we will continue to heed the CDC’s guidelines and make informed decisions. We are currently trying to keep the office open 9-3 Mondays through Fridays. Please follow all posted guidelines when visiting the office. You can also call us at 724-392-7023 or email our staff.

You can also find more information about Covid-19 and a list of resources on our webpage www.protectpt.org/covid-19.

Welcoming a New Team Member

We are excited to announce our newest team member, Patrick Campbell! Patrick will be our new Project and Outreach Coordinator. With a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity, he is excited to share his experience in community organizing and passion for environmental sustainability at Protect PT. Patrick recently moved back home to Western PA with his spouse and children.

Contact our staff:
Gillian Graber, Executive Director gillian@protectpt.org
Patrick Campbell, Project and Outreach Coordinator patrick@protectpt.org
Mary Obringer, Outreach Assistant mary@protectpt.org
Kathleen Brosseau, Environmental Scientist kathleen@protectpt.org

SHUT IT DOWN!

Left:
Hold operators accountable with this iconic t-shirt

Right:
Stand for Clean Water with this original design



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2020 Membership Drive! Your membership makes a difference for yourself, your family and your community. If you missed the drive, you can still become a member at www.protectpt.org/membership or by filling out the card below.

Donate to Protect PT Today! Your gift supports community advocacy, educational programs, monitoring programs and more. Make your payment by Credit Card, Check, or Money Order

Full name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Phone Number _____ (mobile/home) ☐ I'd like to become a member with my gift

☐ Give \$25 & receive a Leachate Infographic
☐ Give \$50 & receive a Clean Water Sticker
☐ Give \$100 & receive a Shut it Down T-shirt.

☐ Give \$10 a month & enjoy all three. By checking this box, you agree to have this amount billed to your credit card monthly.

☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard ☐ Other

Detach and return to Protect PT, PO Box 137 Harrison City PA 15636. All donations are tax deductible.

Card no. ____/____/____/____
CSV ____ Expires ____/____