

# Fracking and Murrysville: *What Do I Need to Know?*



No unconventional horizontal hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") has occurred yet in Murrysville, however thousands of acres of land have been leased to energy companies. Active Marcellus gas production is occurring in nearby Penn Township and Salem Township.

Fracking is a heavy industrial activity, involving large well pads, dozens of stationary diesel engines, heavy machinery, and thousands of truck trips. It is associated with air pollution and water contamination risks, as well as noise and vibrations that can be heard and felt up to a mile away from the site. Many are concerned about health risks as well as the risk of possible accidents.

## **Murrysville Council is considering a 2016 proposed Oil and Gas Ordinance that dictates where fracking operations could be located.**

- **The pending ordinance would permit fracking in most of the "Rural Residential District," approximately ONE-THIRD of Murrysville** (map is available at [MurrysvilleFracking.com](http://MurrysvilleFracking.com))
  - While this is the least populated area, there are still hundreds of homes in the R-R zone.
  - Additionally, the R-R zone is intended to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to preserve the rural atmosphere of the municipality.
  - Energy companies have stated their intention to drill in Murrysville's R-R zone.
- **Setbacks:**
  - The ordinance would **allow wells to be drilled as close as 800 feet** (less than three football fields) **from homes** or other occupied structures.
  - **Drilling companies and leaseholders have been well represented at public meetings. They are lobbying for reducing setbacks further, possibly to 500 feet.**

**Learn more: [www.MurrysvilleFracking.com](http://www.MurrysvilleFracking.com)**

**Please take action!**

**Demand that Murrysville Council increase the setback distance to a minimum of 2000 ft. and prohibit fracking in residential areas.**

1. **Attend Murrysville Council meetings** in person and address Council during the public comment portion of each meeting. Council meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at 7pm in the municipal building.
2. **Join the [murrysvillefracking.com](http://murrysvillefracking.com) email list** to stay informed about important upcoming dates, including Council meetings and public hearings.
3. **Send emails to Murrysville elected officials** and tell them you are opposed to fracking in residential areas. Emails available at [www.MurrysvilleFracking.com](http://www.MurrysvilleFracking.com).

*The PA Supreme Court recognizes that fracking is an industrial activity, and affirmed municipalities' responsibility and authority to prohibit the industrial use of fracking surface operations inside residential zones, in order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the residents.* (Robinson v Commonwealth of PA, Dec 2013)

## LATEST SCIENTIFIC HEALTH AND SAFETY STUDIES ON FRACKING

### SETBACKS AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

**"We recommend that at a minimum, one-mile setbacks should be established between drilling facilities and occupied dwellings such as schools, hospitals, and other dwellings where infants and children might spend a substantial amount of time."**

"Potential hazards of air pollutant emissions from unconventional oil and natural gas operations on the respiratory health of children and infants." *Reviews on Environmental Health*, June 2016. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27171386>

**"In the geographic areas we studied, the most common setback distances from buildings were 300 and 500 feet, with a range of range of 150 to 1500 feet. Based on historical catastrophic events, thermal modeling, vapor cloud modeling, and air pollution data, these distances do not appear sufficient to protect public health and safety."**

"Adequacy of Current State Setbacks for Directional High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus, Barnett, and Niobrara Shale Plays." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, February 2016. <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/advpub/2016/2/ehp.1510547.acco.pdf>

### HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AIR POLLUTION:

**"Women are more likely to have premature babies and high-risk pregnancies the more they are exposed to unconventional natural gas development, according to a new study based on more than 10,000 babies born in the shale-gas region of Pennsylvania...[M]others who lived near the highest levels of gas-industry activity were 40 percent more likely to give birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy than those where the industry was least active."**

"Pennsylvania study finds link between gas drilling and premature births." *State Impact Pennsylvania*, October 2015.

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/10/09/pennsylvania-study-finds-link-between-gas-drilling-and-premature-births/>

**"Looking at four stages of shale gas well activity, which included preparing the well site, drilling, fracking, and production, Rasmussen says they found that people with asthma who live near more intense shale gas activity are 1.5 to 4.4 times more likely to suffer from an asthma attack."**

"Health study shows connection between asthma attacks and gas drilling." *State Impact Pennsylvania*, July 2016.

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2016/07/18/health-study-shows-connection-between-asthma-attacks-and-gas-drilling/>

### GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION:

**"According to recently released data from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, various aspects of oil and gas development have contaminated about 240 private water supplies since 2008."**

"Study finds flawed well casings— not fracking— caused tainted water." *State Impact Pennsylvania*, September 2014.

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2014/09/15/study-finds-flawed-well-casings-not-fracking-caused-tainted-water/>

### PROPERTY CONCERNS - WOULD MY HOME LOSE VALUE?

**"A recent survey of 550 people found that the majority of people would not purchase a home near natural gas drilling. The University of Denver study... found up to a 25 percent decrease in bid values of homes near fracking... 'There's a stigma.'"** "Fracking Sparks Concern Over Nearby Home Values." *National Association of Realtors Official Magazine*. December 2013. <http://realtormag.realtor.org/daily-news/2013/12/20/fracking-sparks-concern-over-nearby-home-values>

***For more information on fracking and its potential impacts on Murrysville:  
[www.MurrysvilleFracking.com](http://www.MurrysvilleFracking.com)***

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