

John” Doe”- Resident of Hickory, Pa.

BO: If you don't mind, I have a bunch of questions that my friends have asked me to ask, so I'm going to try to ask you questions and you could, you know, ramble on if you'd like. But I want to get some of these addressed. Okay.

JOHN: Okay.

BO: You don't have a lease, with them. (Range Resources)

JOHN: I do. It's a non-drilling lease.

BO: And what does that mean.

JOHN: They are not allowed to do any surface activity whatsoever on the property. They're not allowed to drill. They're not allowed to put any equipment of any kind on my property. They're allowed to drill under it horizontally, and it does give them the right to do seismic testing. But they don't specify what seismic testing is and of course they have to use the most intrusive, obnoxious testing, which involves bringing a hydra axe through your property to cut an 8-foot wide swath in a criss-cross fashion.

Then they bring the drill rig in about the size of 2 bobcats I'm estimating and they drill 20 to 30 feet down and they set off, they load these bore holes with charges. I asked what the intensity was and they couldn't tell me, but when I said, compared to like an M80 or something, they were all like "umm, it sounds more like a dynamite or a half stick of dynamite charge." What happens is they set those in like a tick-tack-toe pattern. The charges go one way and then there's sensors that they run on top of the surface of the ground that go another way, perpendicular to them. Okay, so then what they do is they set these charges off all one at a time.

Well, we're all on well water here. You know, I think I have the cleanest, most pure water around the whole area, but I only have one gallon a minute of recharge, so of course I had to spend like 200% of the normal well costs to get a tank put in and different pumps and everything-and a metering system. So, I don't want to lose that water, but I almost did last October when they were drilled over the hill, but that could have been due to drought, as well. We were in a little bit of a dry season, but even that, the year earlier we were in a dry spell for, I think a little bit longer and we never had a problem with our well. These guys have all their water trucks going around-sucking out of the creeks. You know, a creek-a continuous creek or a river is surfacing the ground water and these guys are sucking it all out-we're talking millions of gallons-these guys are sucking it all out. They're depleting everything and of course the water flows to the lowest point of gravity so they create a kind of depression more so. If they remove the water, even a foot is going to make a difference in long term and they've been sucking out of these streams-sucking them close to dry, even sucking the ponds up.

They went after Ron's pond. That's another lovely story there that I noticed, that I called the DEP on, and the DEP was unaware of it. They were pumping from his contaminated pond and the DEP said, "Yeah it's contaminated," and he had a fish kill and everything. They're pumping from his pond and they were using the pond about a half a mile away as an interstitial pond just to throw water into and then he had a pump there he sucked out that and took it to the drill site behind my house. I told the DEP, I said, "Their taking water out of a supposedly contaminated pond and throwing it into a clean pond," and they said, "Oh no, they're putting it in a lined pit." I said, "Look it's not lined. Dam! I know! I've been living here a couple years. I know what it is. I've been there!"

And not even a week later they disassembled the pipes. I don't know if they were finished or if they,

the DEP, did something about it.

My problem is with the DEP not regulating these guys. The DEP is not staffed. Yeah, these gas well drillers, the DEP is in bed with them. They're all tied together. These drilling companies come into town. They buy statues for the town hall. They bought a \$35,000 bronze statue for Hickory. They bought the prize bull at the Washington County fair, big deal, \$12,000 and the guy made a statement, "Oh I thought that was pretty cheap."

I have articles here. I have an article here from Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2008, Wall Street Journal, *Gas Producers in Washington, Pennsylvania*. I have problems with the DEP, because, well, there's a long story here, and it starts with a sinister plan; right on the last day, at the last hour, the court house was closing. It was the day before we signed our land deed for the sale. They snuck in an instrument to our deed saying that they have a right of way. We didn't even know that, we signed the paper. We were in Georgia at the time. We just signed the paper and then mailed them back to my dad's office and his secretary was taking care of that kind of stuff. We got up here into Pennsylvania and moved back, built our house, moved in June-July-August 2005.

The Great Lakes came knocking on our door saying, "We're putting a pipeline through the back of your property."

"I didn't know that."

He said, "Well it's in your deed."

Basically, I said, "Well, I'm going to do what I can to stop you."

And he was like, "Please do, you know we will try to work with you."

Yeah, well, they just let me out on a leash. They just gave me a line to run, and I'm new to this stuff, so there's nothing you can do. They just let me go. I didn't know that that was part of the battle. Then the following year they went and fracked a well that I had a half a mile away, right in line with my well, and my well went cloudy.

Then right in my well, between my well and that well fracing, all the neighbors wells got gas in them-like up to 80% natural gas. There was gas and water bubbling out of an old abandoned gas well 100 years old. Now this is supposed to be 6000 ft. under ground. All this pressure is coming up all of a sudden and it clouded my well. I never even met Rona Gulla before this. I was curious as to what was going on with all this drilling and what they were doing. I heard they were directional drilling. I wanted to know what direction they were going. They better not be going under my feet because they never signed a contract with me at that time yet!

I went up to the DEP office and researched and pulled all of the permits and everything that they had and it said they were only permitted 6500 ft., but as far as what direction they went, after all my talkings with the DEP, the DEP has no clue which way they are going.

Here was my big thing. They contaminated my well, but you know the best thing I heard from the Great Lakes was, "Oh, we're sorry to hear about your water well." That fired me up, because they say that anything we do to your water, you lose your water, your water goes bad, we'll replace it. And that's the answer I got from them, "Sorry to hear about your water well."

BO: You said you now have a lease right?

JOHN: I do, and it's a lawn-drilling lease.

JOHN: Well here's another thing too Bo. What we find is there were 4 papers. This was February 2007 during a freezing cold snap that we had for 2 weeks. It was like sub-zero temperatures every night and David Zuheay came up on a Saturday night at 8 o'clock, with this lease. He was one of the Great Lakes people, one of the more sinister ones aside from the higher ups. There were like four papers there that he had with him. We signed them. I said, "Hey look, it's 8 o'clock. There is nobody open to make a copy of this stuff. I said, "Can I trust you to get me a copy this week. He goes, "Oh yeah, yeah sure."

The week goes by and I never see anything, and I called him. Another week goes by, nothing. I emailed him I said, "How about a copy of that? He finally sent me copy. What we had signed and read and what we had received with our signature on it were two different things. The first lease I remember seeing like 15 paragraphs, numbered one through fifteen. This lease only came back with 8! And that was the end of it. And then when I called him back, it had paragraph number eight or something like that and it said, they could come on my land and all this crap, I called him and I said, what the hell are you doing? We went through the ropes and he gave me this big story, "Oh I found out the fax machine cut it off." It was faxed from the main department to him and he said, "Oh I'll send you this." Well, what he sent me next was...he had this time and date stamp on it from a court house and everything, you know the complete thing. And he put in real big black bold letters at the bottom: WE CANNOT DRILL OR DO ANYTHING ON YOUR PROPERTY. So, he's like the biggest liar.

He went to a poor farmland region. They flashed cash in front of these old poor farmers eyes and their eyes got big and they bit at it. And now these guys are really sorry they did anything.

BO: How much money, if you don't mind, have you received or have you been promised from these people?

JOHN: Well the line going back to my property was \$2 a foot.

BO: That's a one shot deal?

JOHN: Yeah. That was a one shot deal. Now they negotiate even more, because they're making money hand over fist. For the little short stride that they took for another swath through the back there-they have the right of way on it. They paid, I think I estimated it out to be like \$18 a foot, plus around \$100 a tree they took out. Before I got \$2 a foot and they had a forester come in and said, "You got \$500 worth of trees." That was nothing.

BO: Are you getting any residuals?

JOHN: Yeah with the non- drilling lease you get royalties from that, you know you're in a pool with so many different people and you get divided up on a decimal percent like whoever has the biggest property gets the most and so on down the line. So, that lease you'll see it says you get 15% of the total well profit and then they take that 15% and Great Lakes takes 85% and they divide it amongst the size of your properties and you get that percentage. We haven't seen anything of that yet-they just fraced the well.

BO: So you're basically at their mercy because you have no way of really knowing that what they're saying is true. Is that correct?

JOHN: That's correct. I asked them who audits them and they had no answer for me.

BO: How has it affected the real estate values?

JOHN: Well I just had oil come through my property so I'm sure that's going to degrade it. It's kind of unsightly. There's a lot of crap on the roads. You know, rocks, mud, everything. There's noise. They're putting compressor stations up. There's one right across from my house on the Gulla property. I'm sure that thing is going to sound like a jet engine. We moved out in the country for peace and quiet and then these assholes came in, so it's all over. We paid for what we didn't want.

BO: Has you're air been contaminated?

JOHN: You can smell drilling fluids. It smells like sweet crude or a machine shop-metal cutting fluid. You can smell that now.

BO: When did this whole thing start? When did you move into your house?

JOHN: In July 2005.

BO: And was it there before you got there or has it started before?

JOHN: They started when we moved in the area and we didn't realize they were there. I heard a noise over the hill continuously day and night. I was like, "Man that farmer's really busy bailing hay. And I come to find out that was drilling."

BO: What about light pollution?

JOHN: The drill rig. Everybody laughed They thought it was my Christmas tree. I mean there's a lot of light, a lot of light. They have those jets sets to light up the site. The mast of the rig is about 150 ft. tall and they're spot-lights on it everywhere.

BO: That's lit up all night?

JOHN: Oh yeah, 24/7.

BO: Whom have you complained to? How have your complaints been addressed?

JOHN: My first complaint was to the zoning officer of Mount Pleasant Township and he said, "The only noise ordinance they have is against barking dogs," and there is nothing he could do. I have complained to the DEP about water contamination. They've come out and sampled my water well twice, but all I get is a report or laboratory analysis of Magnesium, Sodium, pH- all normal water quality indicators. I said, "Where the hell is the drilling fluid indicator?" He said, "Oh well that's Strontium, Barium. You know that could be from anything." I actually went out on my own and used a sampling company from here at work that's pretty reasonable and I said, "What would you test for drilling fluids." He said, "Well, Methylene Blue Activated Substances. It's called MBAS. It looks for phosphorus, basically, phosphorus based soaps and fluids. It was a very low hit, one not to be concerned about. I even checked it for lead. But still I did that for my own sanity because I have a new born.

BO: So it was a little higher than you would have liked, but not high enough to raise any red flags is what you're saying?

JOHN: Correct.

BO: But they didn't even check it anyway.

JOHN: No, no the DEP did nothing. They're blowing smoke on the other end of it.

BO: How has the gas company responded to you issues?

JOHN: They haven't. This last time I didn't even bother calling them. I told you when my well went cloudy they just said, "I'm sorry to hear about your water well."

BO: Have any of your other neighbors sued the gas company or government or anything?

JOHN: Not to my knowledge. My neighbor down the road threatened to. You're going to have to prove that they made you lose your water or you're going to have to prove that your water is contaminated- they're not going to pay for it-and how are you going to prove that they made you lose your water? I have been affected by it all around me and just being on the sidelines here is enough to outrage me.