

xxxxxxResident of Hickory Pa. 4-08

A: There are a lot of people here with another agenda ...we have to be very careful here I do believe Range Resources has made some errors in how they go about things and I do believe they are deliberate errors but I do also believe that there are a lot of people who are in this county who are very happy because they have no jobs, they have no money and this is a source of income.

Q: Yeah, I'm getting that as well, uh, but its unfortunate, and this is my personal opinion, that people have to sell themselves to a certain extent

A: That is exactly what it is and the thing is there doesn't seem to be any kind of regulation for these people. They just come in and over power and that's where my problem comes in. I don't have a problem with the concept; I have a problem with the way it's being instituted. What they are doing and how they are doing it. I mean, two and a half years ago they came to us wanting to do a vertical well. Now a vertical well leaves a very small footprint and actually they came north four years ago and we didn't really want to get involved in it. And a neighbor of ours said 'oh come on XXXXX, the money's nice. They don't really make much of an imprint.... and you can have enough to'... because we're trying to renovate an old farm and you know it takes a lot of money and work and he said it'll help you get the old farm house together and I said well I'll think about it. ...So we had them out and they told us what they were doing at the time. Well it wasn't six months later till they discovered this horizontal drilling and that changed the entire complexion of what they were doing. And yet, you know we signed a lease for a vertical well, we thought, but what we did was signed a lease that was just sort of open ended and they could do whatever they wanted and they came in and just totally changed what was going to happen and we said we had no interest in having that amount of destruction of the property for this and wanted to opt out. Well of course they came six months before our lease was over, and of course they showed up, and then you're stuck. I mean its a situation where I think they come in and they lease things and they give as little information as possible and they grab up as much land as possible and then they just come in and do whatever they want.

Q: Yes I am getting a lot of that and like you said there's these little gray areas and all of them seem to favor them and leave you guys or whoever is signing the lease in the lurch.

A: Yeah and some people are getting a location fee for their well. Some people are not. Some people are getting 14% some people are getting 12%. I mean there's just no consistency to what they are doing and it just leads to a lot of hard feelings all the way around.

I am a person who really cares about this kind of stuff and I find myself in kind of an awkward situation so I am trying to be as balanced as possible. Go ahead, let's go back to the questions.

Q: All right, what are the effects on your property, on yourself and your family and has anybody gotten sick from any of this.

A: There has been no illness for anyone in the family that we know of. The effect has been more the amount of noise. The way ours is situation is that it is on top of a hill and actually towards the back of the hill. And so we can see some of the paths like where they have graded. ... But we can't see, you know its not on right top of us. So they way we are situation we are down in the valley so it works out well for us, **but we've smelled so much gas, we've smelled so much diesel fuel, we've smelled so much like oily residue kind of odors, lots and lots of that ... we hear the noise from the trucks that go by. We are on one of their main routes that come in and out of. We are right across from Ron Gulla's farm, which they've been using as sort of a central location, so pumper trucks are constantly going by the house getting water from his pond and going to different farms. I had horses spooking in the arena; I had to stop riding one horse because he couldn't stand the noise of the big trucks when they went by. You know those kinds of things that are extraneous but that did make an impact for me.** But we have had no illness. Our water, as far as we know, is ok. We have not had it tested since they did the drilling though. So I don't know.

Q: How bout ... I'm asking this on my own here because everyone that I've spoken to seems to have one illness and that is called stress.

A: Yeah, it's very stressful.... when they show up and they move in, that really got me. I mean, when they start bringing in all these housing trailers and putting them up there and the compressor units that are so loud, that's very stressful. This year we had a rainy year so the water levels high but you now it is a little scary to think about what we may be drinking. I mean we have a major filtration system on ours but you know its not meant for that kind of stuff so.

Q: Ok. How about air contamination? I know you mentioned the smell. Is there anything?

A: **Yeah, the smell has been really bad and the smell is oil and I've noticed a lot of dirt on the windows and that kind of stuff so I know you know we are getting some... we had one problem with them just when they began the drilling I guess they use some sort of a bore to begin with and whoever was doing it didn't do any kind of containment of the stone dust and it went out all over the farm through the entire valley and I went up and took pictures of it and I don't know whether your involved with Tom Kane at the River Reporter but he has the pictures.**

Q: He has the pictures.... ok well I'll try to get in touch with him, Tom Kane you said right?

A: Yeahand I mean it went on for over a half an hour and I sent the pictures to Range Resource and I went up there and talked to the guys that were doing, and they quit, but I think they were done. You know by the time I got up there and talked to different

people they were finished with what they needed to do, but I mean everything was covered with dust, stone dust, and my horses were right underneath where they were doing it. You couldn't even see them out there. So that was a really bad thing and I called Range Resources and talked to Brad Benjamin about it and I said, "Hey if this is the way its going to go there's going to be a lot of problems here and I talked to the DEP about it and sent them the pictures and they came out and talked to them so I don't know ... you use the channels you feel you can but... our DEP is overwhelmed

Q: Yeah I spoke to a couple of people and the township who said that basically the DEP is not only overwhelmed but basically is superseded by these laws.... their hands are tied.... the laws are written like you said, by Haliburton and they specifically eliminate all the things that they do.

A: That's right. And I asked one DEP official that I don't care to name because he is not from this area, and I just know that he is a biologist, and I said can't we do something to measure the air quality and he said XXXXX there is nothing you can do. Even if you found that it was putrid. HE said I couldn't do anything about it.

Q: How bout traffic, you mentioned the traffic was pretty bad and noise. How about crime or any other issues you may have thought of?

A: No, I have not had any crime. I was really worried about that especially when they were living up there because someone has to be there 24 hours a day so they just stay on the property and I was really nervous about that, but no, nothing.

Q: Yeah, you know I spoke to who was it uh, David Kraeer ...do you know him?

A: Yes

Q: He was saying that they may show up at some ungodly time some ... you never know. Its like you're a prisoner of your property.

A: That is exactly correct. You don't feel like it's your property anymore. In fact I went up the other day because my neighbor told me that he saw them dumping water back in to the pit that they had. And I said well Donald they shouldn't be doing that and he said I know. He said I was up there cutting wood and I saw them do that and I thought I'd let you know. And so you just don't know what is going on. So I called them up I went up and talked to one of their representatives and of course they said they weren't doing anything like that at the time. Someone was actually taking water out which they are supposed to. And he said no XXXXX no one should ever be doing anything like that and I give Mark Hennisagen a call, well you know you call them and its like you might as well talk to the wall. No we kept it out, no one was doing it. You know you just sit there and go ok. Here's Tom's email TKane@riverreport.com. So he can help you with that. But you know I haven't had any vandalism. I don't like the fact that there's traffic out in front of the house all the time and you know Dave's right And if you knew Dave Kraeer he's one the nicest guys.... never complains about anything

Q: Yeah he seems like a real down to earth guy.

A: Yeah, they are.... when they wanted to site the well on our property he volunteered to have the driveway which is really disgusting which was so nice of him he didn't have to do that.... so he's a lovely man too, and I'm sure he could provide...

Q: He's actually next on my list I actually had called him and left a message.

A: These are people who could really use the money if it comes from the well.

Q: I have heard that with the money ... you're at the mercy with them as well ... they sort of give you what they want to and there's no accounting for it and there's no way of knowing if its right, There's no way of knowing when its going to come

A: Who is reading the meter and how is it being read? I'm sure we're all being screwed that way.

Q: That's a shame.

A: I asked the DEP about that and they said that's one thing they do try to monitor as well as they can, but when they have 40 wells in one township. They do try to monitor that but they can't keep up it.

Q: You'd think that would be something they could do right for you.

A: I know, I know and I can't tell you how many times I have been apologized to by them I mean they feel awful about it but they don't have enough people hired to do the job. Well it was interesting because we went to a meeting when they wanted to buy the farm across the street and they wanted to buy a 147-acre farm ...Ron Gull's farm

Q: Now you say buy or lease?

A: They wanted to buy it ... it was after they had already kind of wrecked it. They wanted to buy it and they told the township that they were buying it so they could put a five office building on it, 40x40, and we're all sitting there incredulous that they would think that we were so stupid to think that they needed 147 acres for a five office building.... we sat at the meeting and told our counsel that we didn't want it and they actually turned it down and that was like they couldn't believe that we would say no to them... you know they keep saying they were friends of the township. So it was directly after that meeting that we got notice that they were coming to drill a well on our property.

Q: Like we'll fix you

A: Exactly right cause I was rather verbal at the meeting and said that I couldn't see how this made any sense when there were all these abandoned places up in town that they could use that were much more appropriate.

Q: That lends to the suspicions I guess you can call it that there is something nefarious going on, you know. When people like you make a complaint and the next thing you know they're drilling on your property. Or another story and a lot of what I am learning now and I'm sharing with people...that people who questioned DEP were basically told you know the town tried to pass some ordinances that tried to rein them in and then the township was basically warned ... its a veiled threat 'be my guest ... you change the ordinances and be prepared to face the consequences Kind of thing.

A: That's right and we were not prepared to have them on the property and after that two weeks and they told us they were coming we said no, we don't want you on, our lease is up in six weeks and you're not to come on the property and we figured maybe we could hold them off long enough to do so ... our attorney called us and said "XXXXXX let them on they already have an army of lawyers coming here to fight you." He said 'There is no way you and XXXXXX can afford to fight this battle'. So we let them on. We had no choice ... we had a lease and of course the lease was going to expire in six weeks but they made sure they got on that property so that they had it before it expired. They're a little bit... they're dirty ... but their borderline and.... but we don't have anything to catch them with. I think the best thing is exposure and that's the reason why I am participating in this so that the more we shed the light of day on things....

Q: Well uh, I'll tell you.... last week I started asking these questions of people and I'll give you some insight we.... I wrote down and sent all this information and just from speaking with three or four people before the weekend and I shared it with people, believe me it enlightened them ... These people are getting a story, a pipedream by the gas companies and then they just hear what you say or what Ron says and it enlightens them.

A: I think if we can get to you know they are always choosing rural areas.... our zoning committee is run by one of my favorite people but he's in his 80's and he's owned a farm in this township for years.... well he wasn't prepared for this kind of thing, you know and they just tend to come in and they ride roughshod over these rural communities, so if there was a way that we could educate the township officials so that they could then educate their people, you know, it would be a lot easier.

Q: Well you know I think you hit it on the head when you said they were coming with an army of lawyers ... I think, I think the issue here is like you said these rural areas can't compete with them

A: If they were able to get ordinances set before they came, ordinances

Q: I don't think it unfair to ask that the playing field be level before it starts.

A: Right forewarned is forearmed.

Q: And the problem is you're not on a level playing field your basically fighting an uphill

A: I'll tell you what my husband and I feel so stupid after all of this and he is a very successful businessman and we both have college educations but we were totally unprepared for this. And what they did was they bought the township.... they said hey we're going to buy your police all new vehicles, we're going to give you services you don't have.... and you know Range Resources has done the same thing... they've said hey when we leave here in five years we're gonna repave all your roads, we're gonna to this, we're gonna do that.... well, you know ... they've totally changed the complexion of the community ... this was an agrarian community and we had lived here 30 years ago and we wanted to come back because they never let things like this happen ...they've kept out coal washing plants, strip miners, they have been so good at keeping the community as it was Until this and this has just caught everyone by surprise because we all thought of the old well drilling where it just went straight down and there really wasn't a lot to it. Well this is just, this is just.... I call it NASA ... its got lights on top of it for planes and it stays lit all day and all night its just incredible. Really disgusting.

Q: Again, you've already answered it, but I'll ask it again. Have you complained, to whom and when and have you had any dealings with local government regarding these issues. You can answer it anyway you want to as briefly as you want.

A: I had a brief complaint about stone dust at the very beginning of the drilling, that has been taken care of although we're not sure ... and we did have a complaint that we took to the zoning authority when Range Resources wanted to purchase the farm across the street.

Q: And that one was addressed

A: and we won

Q: You won but then you had the drilling on your property the next day

A: Well we won and not only that but they are going to purchase it anyway without saying that they are buying it for the office building, they want it for something else ... they've come up with another reason why they needed it so they can't be stopped. They're getting their farm, of course.

Q: So its not really a victory ... its a victory on paper.

A: No its not a victory.... we said we won the battle but we're not going to win the war.

Q: How has the gas company responded to your complaints?

A: Well they're always very polite and they're always very willing to help but you can never feel like you get anywhere. Its always very much a secret ... they can't tell you how much its producing they can't tell you when their going to do something, you know, they just can't tell you things.

Q: Do you think your problems have been remedied? Or will be remedied?

A: Ah ... no.

Q: That's great I love short answers. What else would you like to share with us you know just any thoughts that you might have. One person said look I just have one thing to say, I'm just putting this out there he said If I knew today what I knew before they came in I would never have signed a lease.

A: Absolutely absolutely we would say the same thing.

Q: He said they could have given me all the money in the world

A: Yep, yep ... just to keep our township quiet and friendly and now it's more like a metropolis. I liken it to an invading army coming into your place. I feel like we are occupied. This is an occupation and we're just here. They don't talk to us, they don't tell us anything, they just do what they want to do, they roll their trucks all over just like tanks coming in its the same thing ...its just like an invasion and you have an occupying force here.

Q: XXXXX, I will quote you on that. Can I quote you on that, that's the only thing I'll put your name to?

A: (laughter) ok