



### **“Shell Effects” – Dr. Matt Mehalik/ Key Takeaways**

Betting the region’s economic future on petrochemical and production of plastics at this point in history is like ordering more deck chairs for the Titanic. It would send Pittsburgh and the entire Ohio River Valley backward into the dark and dirty days of the polluted past instead of forward toward a clean energy economy that provides clean jobs for workers and a healthy future for families and the environment.

Allegheny and Beaver counties STILL have a serious air quality problem. Adding to our air shed will only make things worse.

Allegheny County’s air ranks in the dirtiest 8.5% of U.S. cities. (Clean Air Task Force 2019)

If you live in Beaver County, the air you breathe already puts your health at risk. The American Lung Association 2019 gave Beaver County an F for Ozone. Ozone or smog is harmful to lung health.

One petrochemical plant will emit 2.2 million tons/yr of carbon dioxide equivalents, a greenhouse gas, which is like putting an additional 430,836 passenger cars on the road a year. Several plants will make Paris Climate Accord goals impossible to meet.

Based on 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment, cancer risk in Allegheny County is in the worst 2% of counties for cancer risk.

The Shell plant alone will emit 10-times the VOC’s as a major Title V polluter and three times the pollution of the Clairton Coke Works.

The petrochemical plant will emit 522 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to the air per year.

The Shell plant would be the largest source of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in Southwestern Pennsylvania, which contain acrolein, ammonia, naphthalene, benzene, ethylene glycol, formaldehyde, methylene chloride, tetrachloroethylene, toluene and xylene – all harmful to people’s health.

The footprint of the regional petro industry is already huge and will be getting bigger.

More than 12,202 unconventional wells have been drilled in the region and 13,404 violations have been filed at well sites. More than 1000 new wells need to be drilled every 3-5 years to provide feedstock ethane to petrochemical plants like Shell. (FracTracker Alliance 2019)

The Climate Change implications for this industry are disastrous. More than 2.2 million tons of Carbon Dioxide will be emitted from this plant PER YEAR making Paris Climate Accord targets impossible, especially if 5-7 plants are built in the region.

We must put pressure on all elected officials to develop plans for a Clean Energy Economy for the Ohio River Valley and bring in clean jobs and businesses. Support Reimagine Beaver, a citizens group working on this.

We must get behind states leading the way like New York and launch a Clean Economy for the Ohio River Valley campaign. Gov. Cuomo recently announced a major climate and jobs initiative with the Worker Institute at Cornell University and ILR’s School of Climate Jobs to help create 40,000 clean energy jobs by 2020.