Protect PT

3344 Route 130, PO Box 137
Harrison City, PA 15636

Contact
Gillian Graber
Executive Director
Protect PT
gillian@protectpt.org
(724) 392-7023

Fracking Waste Disposal Injection Well in Plum Borough Threatens Pittsburgh's Drinking Water

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA: Plum Borough residents, local elected officials, and advocates for clean air and water joined together Tuesday, Oct. 10 to protect the community from the dangers of a proposed new toxic wastewater injection well.

"There is so much at stake here," said Gillian Graber, executive director of Protect PT, a local environmental non-profit with members in Plum. "Wastewater injection wells contaminate the water, soil and air. Exposure to fracking waste has been shown to lead to a range of health effects, including upper respiratory symptoms, skin rashes and difficulty breathing. Long-term exposure can lead to liver and kidney toxicity, heart and lung disease and cancers such as leukemia."

When Penneco Environmental Solutions proposed the Sedat 4A well in Plum, they claimed it was a "natural expansion of non-conforming use," attempting to use a legal doctrine that would allow the corporation to avoid Plum's new injection well regulations. "Among other defects, Penneco did not put forth any evidence that the new injection well would not be harmful to Plum residents," said Tim Fitchett with Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services, representing Protect PT in the case.

"Living near this well impacts me and my family on a daily basis in several ways, from truck traffic to noise and air emissions," said Katie Sheehan, a resident living near the existing injection well. Katie and her family have attended multiple EPA, state and local hearings on the injection well since 2016. "I will always be worried about the potential threat to our water. I have concerns about air quality, and I have reported those concerns to the EPA, DEP, and the Allegheny Health Department." Despite these reported concerns, federal, state, and county departments failed to remedy Sheehan's ongoing harm.