

**Comments presented by Barbara Jarmoska to DCNR re: Loyalsock State Forest development
Williamsport PA public meeting 6-3-2013**

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak about proposed industrialization of the Loyalsock State Forest Clarence Moore acreage, better known simply as Rock Run. My name is Barbara McKee Jarmoska. I am a resident of northern Lycoming County, living on 20 acres that adjoin the Loyalsock State Forest; land that has been in my family for 3 generations. Although my land is not leased for gas drilling, I am surrounded by its industrial activity.

I am here to ask DCNR to get a divorce...A divorce from an administration that has been blinded by greed and false promises. A divorce from an industry that has a choke hold on key regulators and appointed officials in Harrisburg and across this state.

Many people in this room would agree that for all intents and purposes, representative democracy, as envisioned by our founding fathers - is dead. We weren't invited to the funeral, but we smell the rotting carcass of what was once the democratic process as a putrid odor seeping out from behind closed doors.

Thomas Jefferson feared the aristocracy of corporations and the power of those who put their faith in what our third president referred to as "the selfish spirit of commerce that knows no country, and feels no passion or principle but that of gain." Jefferson believed that nothing was more important to the health of the republic than the government's willingness to assert the sovereignty of citizens over the demands corporations. Today in Pennsylvania, nothing is more relevant to Jefferson's fears than the issue of unconventional shale gas extraction.

Rock Run has, for better or worse, become an iconic symbol of the gas industry's passion for and driving principle of gain at any cost. Rock Run is, for better or worse, a symbol of the current corporate-controlled, hell-bent, short-sighted, and greed-driven destruction of our air, land, water, and ecosystems - the very things that sustain us.

As a species - we too are surely on a path to destruction. Rock Run is one of the rapidly dwindling number of wild and sacred places. It is holy ground, not only the breeding place of threatened brook trout and brown bats, wood thrush, pitcher plants, water shrews, and yellow bellied flycatchers - this acreage known as the Clarence Moore tract is for us, the hallowed ground of our memories and the breeding place of our hope.

I will echo the wise words of my father, who spoke before me.

Do your job, DCNR.

Fulfill your mission, DCNR.

Uphold the constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We honor your mission statement, DCNR. We ask you to do the same.

Keep hope alive.

Keep it wild.

Comment Submitted at Public Meeting on Gas Development in the Loyalsock State Forest

Ted Stroter
Williamsport, PA 17702

June 3, 2013

My name is Ted Stroter from Williamsport, PA.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on this issue that is particularly important to me.

A recent article in the local paper quoted DCNR as saying they will ensure proper protection of natural habitat and recreational aspects of the state forest lands. I also looked on DCNR's website and found their Mission: "We conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment." And their Vision: "As Pennsylvania's leader and chief advocate for conservation and outdoor recreation, we will inspire citizen's to value their natural resources, engage in conservation practices, and experience the outdoors."

Drilling rigs, 5 large water impoundments, 4 compressor stations, 36 miles of stone roads in a clear-cut wide swath of our forests to allow hundreds, or thousands, of 60,000# industry trucks and other gas operations into our state forests! Is this compatible with valuing our resources, engaging in conservation practices and experiencing the outdoors? These activities certainly diminish our enjoyment and experience of the outdoors DCNR said they will protect. If you don't want those gas activities in your state forests raise your hand!

I believe the above mission and vision statements for DCNR are in effect their job responsibility. So I say to DCNR:

Leave the politics out of this issue and **just do your damn job and keep gas activities out of OUR state forest in order to:**

KEEP IT WILD

Thank you,

Ted Stroter

Keep it Wild!

Save Rock Run - and all of our state lands and natural resources

Gentleman, please allow me to qualify myself before commenting here today.

I am not what most reasonable people, or anyone who really knows me, would consider an activist, or even an environmentalist, least of all, an environmental extremist.

I am simply a concerned citizen, husband, father, grandfather, small business owner and property owner. That also makes me a legal and righteous stakeholder in all state lands in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I was also one of the legitimate, but uninvited stakeholders who was unfairly refused admittance to the "invitation only" stakeholder meeting at the DCNR building in Sullivan County on 4-4-2013.

Mr. Allan, you referred to that “dog n’ pony show” in the press as an “involved stakeholder meeting”. State Rep. Garth Everett said it was simply a “private business meeting”, while Senator Gene Yaw cowardly entered and exited by the back door to avoid talking to the press or having to face his constituents. You were very careful to “invite” only those who you knew would support this devastation of the Loyalsock, and representatives from environmental groups you saw as moderate, or easily managed so you could publicly state that you listened to the concerns of “the environmentalists”.

This was clearly an attempt to silence and marginalize the thoughts and legitimate concerns of any and all PA “citizen stakeholders” that you felt might not be on board, or question this push to cannibalize our state lands.

Mary Wolf stood here in this very room a few weeks ago and stated that Anadarko values our state land as much as the people of PA, that Anadarko wanted to keep surface disruption to a minimum - about 2%, that they would employ ‘best management practices’ and follow all state law and guidelines.

I’ve no doubt that Anadarko values our state lands, but not in the same way that the people who live in PA do. If they did, they would leave it in it’s natural state where it it’s value will continue to increase the longer it is left undisturbed. Anadarko’s intention to keep surface disruption to a minimum and ‘best management practices’ means they’re going to do what is cost-effective for them, not necessarily what is best. By the way, since Ms. Wolf and the DCNR failed to mention it.... That 2% disruption she eluded to would equal 500+/- acres, and would be spread out in a checker-board pattern throughout the park, which would create un-natural edging, disruption of the natural canopy, and allow invasive species to encroach upon this area forever altering the ecology of the Loyalsock Forest and threatening the indigenous plants and wildlife.

This is totally unacceptable.

We are well beyond buying into the rhetoric of the gas industry wanting to be our “good neighbors”, or that this is even remotely about energy independence, lowering domestic fuel costs, or local jobs. Prior to the gas industry’s invasion, PA was 26th in employment. Five years into this development we are now ranked 49th. In other words, the people of PA have woken up to the truth.

And the truth be told, there is no energy crisis that demands immediate resource development. Truth be told, this state is not engaged in following a sustainable energy program. If it were, we’d be investing in and developing renewable energy. Instead it is following the corporate business model of unbridled greed with the intention of selling off our natural resources in the global market to the highest bidder. Nothing else.

In the days when all DCNR positions, including the director, were civil service jobs that went to the best qualified, this would never have been proposed. Instead we have political appointees like yourself, Mr. Allan who were put in place to promote Tom Corbett’s industrial agenda.

The bottom line here, is that we the people of PA do not want our state lands carved up and drilled into oblivion and we are not going to stand by idly and let you sell them off under our feet with out a fight.

We want Anadarko, and every other polluting oil, gas, and coal operation kept out of our state lands forever, and would like to see a moratorium on all further permits across the state until independent, long-term, health and environmental studies can be completed and peer reviewed, and then we will decide if we should go forward with this development.

I would like you to deliver this message to Tom Corbett, and share it with the likes of his administrative lap-dogs in the house and senate like Tina Pickett, Garth Everett, Stan Saylor, and Gene Yaw, that all the money the industry spends on slick and sleazy PR campaigns, and all the industry funding of their political campaigns is not going seduce us into giving them our vote in the upcoming elections.

The proverbial line has been drawn in the sand and we are not going away, we will not be silenced, and we will not back down from defending what is ours, and what is right.

Now, ***KEEP IT WILD!***

John Trallo
Sullivan County, PA

Comment Submitted at Public Meeting on Gas Development in the Loyalsock State Forest

Ralph Kisberg
1736 Almond St. Williamsport, PA 17701
570.494.7583
rkisberg@gmail.com

June 6th, 2013

Secretary Allan: In a letter to me in February, you wrote, that you are, “committed to doing all that we can to protect these lands for future generations.” I’d like to believe you, but frankly, I question whether the agency can stand up to the political pressure that comes from the huge investment Anadarko has dangled in front of all levels of government and the local business community.

You are going up against word class negotiators in this case, just ask BP. Yet the DCNR refuses to negotiate from a position of strength.

Last week, at least according to the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, you were quoted as saying, “The 18,000 acres is the portion (where) we believe we have generally more than surface control. Why would you put out a public statement that makes the DCNR’s legal position look so weak? In fact, the DCNR has exclusive surface control of 18,870 acres of the Clarence Moore lands. The DCNR’s position is very strong, even if Anadarko has not conceded it. You defended this position very well in your January 4th, 2012 letter to Anadarko’s Douglas Lawler. Yet in the newspaper you conceded, this is a “muddled” situation.

It is not a fair fight if the DCNR takes that kind of attitude and message into negotiations with Anadarko. That’s not how those people do business in a situation with so much at stake. DCNR may be used to negotiating from a partnership perspective with Anadarko over the lease of public lands, but this is different ballgame.

You also wrote to me, “to the extent we have legal flexibility, we will be guided first and foremost by our Department’s mission and obligation to protect and enhance our public lands”. The DCNR has no discretion to deviate from its mission to protect public lands. It has flexibility only in how it performs its mission. With what attitude will DCNR consider possible options? How does that compare with a highly motivated, competitive corporate approach? Does the CEO of a company like Anadarko simply

ask his legal counsel for their interpretation and accept their options? No, he considers the options given and then he tells his counsel something like, “This is what we are doing, you figure out how we are going to get away with it.” We expect the same kind of tenacity from you in guiding the department in executing its mission to conserve the remaining resources you have on the Clarence Moore lands, not enable the profligate extraction of a gas resource the Commonwealth does not own.

Until the June 3rd meeting, it appeared your agency was buying into Anadarko’s assertion that their plans on public land are “proprietary” and you would not allow the public to see and comment on them even though Anadarko’s contractor of choice, Hawbaker Engineering, laid out survey stakes for pads, pipelines, and road widening for all to see. Your willingness now to reveal at least the numbers of pads and compressor stations is something to thank you for and to encourage you to put out more detailed information on to the public. A public understanding of the impacts of the minimum 156 wells that go with Anadarko’s standard 6 or 7 wells per pad pattern in use on adjacent private land leases, and the 156 glycol dehydrators that will go on each well, can help you fulfill your commitment to preserving these lands for future generations.

In documents obtained under a right to know law request from your agency, Mr. Lawler, Anadarko’s former Vice-President for International and Deepwater Operations, states, “Anadarko’s development plan contemplates capital investment of approximately \$1.1B to develop its assets in the Loyalsock state forest.” Reading Mr. Lawler’s March 15, 2012 letter further you encounter his threat to take their money elsewhere if you don’t play ball their way, “...Anadarko has a deep pool of global assets in which to invest its capital”.

I admire how you have stood up to Anadarko in your responses to Lawler, though I think an appropriate response would have been to encourage them to just go jump in that pool for a generation or so and then get back to us on Clarence Moore. The bottom line is you need the public’s help if you are going to be able to continue to honor your commitment. We all realize government at all levels and of course the business community loses all perspective when that kind of dollar figure gets thrown around.

Shale gas developers like Anadarko are not very good at extracting gas out of rock (15% of the gas in the targeted rock, according to one local operator) but they are very good at 2 things: whining and bullying. Mr. Lawler demonstrates this in his December 7th 2011 letter: “... the Department has no justification to require Anadarko to limit the number of facilities planned for a specific area... or attempt to force Anadarko to enter into a partnership or joint venture with others.

Anadarko certainly doesn’t usually need help in entering into joint ventures, look at the partnership they formed to develop wells in a unit just a few miles south of the Loyalsock state forest which includes 99 acres of our own State Senator and Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Gene Yaw: Anadarko, Mitsui of Japan, Chesapeake and Statoil of Norway, if the latter two haven’t flipped their half to Southwestern by now.

Are we needlessly carving up our state forest for nothing but a one-time payment to the Commonwealth, big bucks for out of state investors and enormous amounts of business for local road contractors, engineering firms, quarry owners, purveyors of tires, hydraulic hoses, white pick up trucks, crane rentals, hotel rooms, booze and bar-b-que? Does any of that have anything to do with the mission of DCNR?

Anadarko’s good cop, Mary Wolfe, Williamsport’s former mayor, stated in this room a few weeks ago “We will minimize surface disturbance.” The best way to accomplish both that and your stated goal of protecting public lands is simple: no surface development at all. Reluctance to do so is strictly based on

a financial risk/reward calculation by the well operator. This is not the DCNR's problem.

Anadarko and Southwestern have leases that are contiguous to the area in question, right up against the State Forest. With some creativity on the DCNR's part and careful public and legislative consideration of the options, they could begin accessing their gas rights from private land lease locations where they already have pads and pipelines, or will have them eventually.

The wellfield service company Baker-Hughes promotes technology that perhaps could enhance that. They call it Extended Reach Drilling (ERD):

ERD techniques are increasingly being used to target hydrocarbons far from the surface or otherwise difficult to access areas of oil and gas reservoirs. In addition to achieving enhanced field recovery, ERD can facilitate drilling around environmentally sensitive areas, which have environmental and regulatory restrictions.

Using...directional drilling products, a wellbore can be drilled as far as seven to eight miles away to reach hydrocarbons that may lie under sensitive onshore or offshore areas.

The area in question encompasses about 6 miles N/S and 8 miles E/W. Mr. Lawler, now the CEO of Chesapeake Energy, did some preemptive whining his March 15, 2012 letter when talking about how Anadarko has followed DCNR concerns to reduce their footprint in development plans they submitted to you, plans the public deserves to see and comment on before any possible deal, "Achieving these accommodations significantly increases the technical difficulty attributed to drilling and completing wells with complex geometries".

To any of that answer is simple. This is not DCNR's problem.

Protection of the Commonwealth's State forest assets must be DCNR's only focus in negotiations in this unique case. It is not DCNR's problem that the great majority of the purchased rights of the Clarence Moore tracts did not come with surface access and those that did are mostly ecologically unacceptable for gas development.

The only question for you is, how does DCNR protect the public's assets; Rock Run, Pleasant Stream and the other source water systems that flow from the CM tracts, the rock formations, sensitive plant and animal life, the forest, the tranquility of the experience of being there?

What leverage can DCNR employ when aggressively committed to protecting our assets? Will our politicians, statewide and local back you up, will they be satisfied with the somewhat reduced amount of capital investment due to roads not widened and built up, pads not cleared and constructed, pipelines not laid, while most of the funds will end up spent underground and the profits to out of state investors and the operator, no matter where the well heads are placed? Will you not be forced to cave in to political pressure for the perceived temporary economic benefits of waste over your mission of conservation?

Carmalene Churba

Comments for June 3 DCNR Public Meeting

I want to thank the DCNR for giving me the opportunity to give comment. I ask that DCNR provide more opportunities across the state to give comment. I request that if another public meeting is held,

it's done in the evening when more people will have an opportunity to attend. A meeting from 4pm-6pm, is not ideal for people with jobs and children.

Last year two of my four children were finally old enough to hike parts of the Loyalsock State Forest, it was simply breathtaking. The hike left my 9, year olds in awe of what God has created for us to enjoy. Not exploit! All children should have an opportunity to experience the beauty of nature in its natural state.

Much of Pennsylvania's tourism industry, particularly the "Pennsylvania Wilds" is dependent on large swaths of uninterrupted forests. If the forests are cut to facilitate the natural gas drillers the tourism industry may be severely financially impacted or even destroyed. With the loss of this tourism will go thousands of permanent jobs. The jobs provided by the natural gas industry are temporary and will go away after the natural gas is extracted.

I want to read an excerpt from a prospectus Range Resources provided to the SEC in 2006. Range Resources explained to potential investors the risks of hydro-fracturing:

"Our business is subject to operating hazards and environmental regulations that could result in substantial losses or liabilities. Oil and natural gas operations are subject to many risks, including well blowouts, cratering's, explosions, uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas or well fluids, fires, formations with abnormal pressures, pipeline ruptures or spills, pollution, releases of toxic natural gas and other environmental hazards and risks.

"If any of these hazards occur, we could sustain substantial losses as a result of:

- Injury or loss of life;
- Severe damage to our destruction of property, natural resources and equipment;
- Pollution or other environmental damage;
- Clean-up responsibilities;
- Regulatory investigations and penalties;
- Suspension of operations.

As we begin drilling to deeper horizons and in more geologically complex areas, we could experience a greater increase in operating and financial risks due to inherent higher reservoir pressures and unknown downhole risk exposures"

How could anyone read that and feel it's okay to drill in Loyalsock State Forest or near our homes, playgrounds or schools?

Anadarko's activities represent a serious threat to the people and the environment. Anadarko has had its share of violations for their containment pits, improper casings, explosions and spills as well as many other accidents. Not just in PA, but every shale play they have drilled. The sad truth is that the best practices of the industry and the most rigorous enforcement of DEP regulations cannot prevent human error.

We need an aggressive long-term common sense approach to protect our special places and the environment. DCNR should comply with the Pennsylvania State Constitution.

What will DCNR's current views and policies about protecting the forests leave for

children and grandchildren to enjoy? The Forest will be around much longer than Anadarko. Some things are worth more than money and should remain the way God intended. Loyalsock State Forest is worth more to this community than the gas beneath it.

**DCNR HEARING, June 3rd
Lycoming College**

Richard J Allan, Secretary
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
PO Box 8767
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

My name is Robert Cross, I am the president of Equinox, Ltd, a company that manufactures outdoor gear for back-packing, kayaking, camping, cross country skiing etc. Equinox is a member of the Outdoor Industry Association, (OIA) which recently provided figures on the annual financial benefits from recreational activities. The figures were broken down by state. When compared with the benefits that Pennsylvania receives from the Marcellus Shale Industry, the numbers are striking.

First looking at jobs, Governor Corbett reported on CNBC recently that the Marcellus Shale industry in PA directly employed 28,000 people. Other sources put that figure at 20,000. The OIA reports 219,000 jobs in the recreation industry in our state. Even if we take Governor Corbett's higher employment figures, the Outdoor recreation industry employees 191,000 more people than the Marcellus Shale Industry

According to the Commonwealth Foundation's publication, "Budget Facts 2011", the PA Department of Revenue reported that natural gas and related industries paid 1.1 billion in state taxes in the six year period from 2006 to 2011. We learn from OIA that the recreation industry paid 1.6 billion in state taxes ---and this was just in 2012.

We are aware that not all of outdoor recreation will be impacted by unconventional gas drilling and related activities. But a lot of it will. Pennsylvania enjoys some of the finest streams and hiking trails in the East. Spectacular Rock Run comes to mind along with the nationally renowned Loyalsock Trail and of course, The Old Loggers Path..

The financial justification offered by the gas industry and their marketing front to the people of our state in allowing them to ravage our magnificent streams and core forests and pollute our air begins to wither in light of these figures. Who would want to hike through an industrial setting, along pipe lines, drill pads and compressor stations, listening to the groan of the drill or the rumbling of trucks. Who would want to kayak or fish in a stream impacted by silt, bubbling with methane or contaminated with frack fluid? Clearly the Outdoor Recreation Industry and all the revenues that it brings to our state will be significantly impacted.

And this is just one industry being damaged by the shale gas ---there are others. Consider, for example, a cousin to outdoor recreation, the tourist industry. Then consider that, unlike fossil fuel extraction, both of these industries are self sustaining.

Weighing the many risks, including economic ones inherent in horizontal, hydraulic fracturing,

against the benefits that accrue to just a few, does it make sense for Pennsylvania to continue this enterprise. An objective observer would have to conclude that it does not.

Robert Cross
President, Equinox,Ltd
Board Member, RD