

October 2025

Community  
Meeting:

SHANNON  
COMPTON/TANTA  
BELLA WELL PAD

M O U N T A I N  
W A T E R S H E D



A S S O C I A T I O N

*Protecting, preserving, and restoring*

# Meeting Norms

- We will respect everyone's time by starting and ending on time.
- Only one conversation at a time.
- Wait until the end to ask questions
- Capture off topic items in a 'backburner' and agree to address them at a more appropriate time.
- Be present with the people you are meeting with.
- Take breaks as needed.
- Information is shared for educational purposes only.
- We may not lobby or provide legal advice.
- If you represent a media outlet or industry, we ask that you identify yourself.
- DCNR or the State is not partnering with MWA on this issue!

# Meeting Highlights



Wellpad Proposal Overview

Concerns with Proposal

Next steps with permitting

Action Items

Community Conversation



**M O U N T A I N  
W A T E R S H E D  
A S S O C I A T I O N**  
*Protecting, preserving, and restoring*

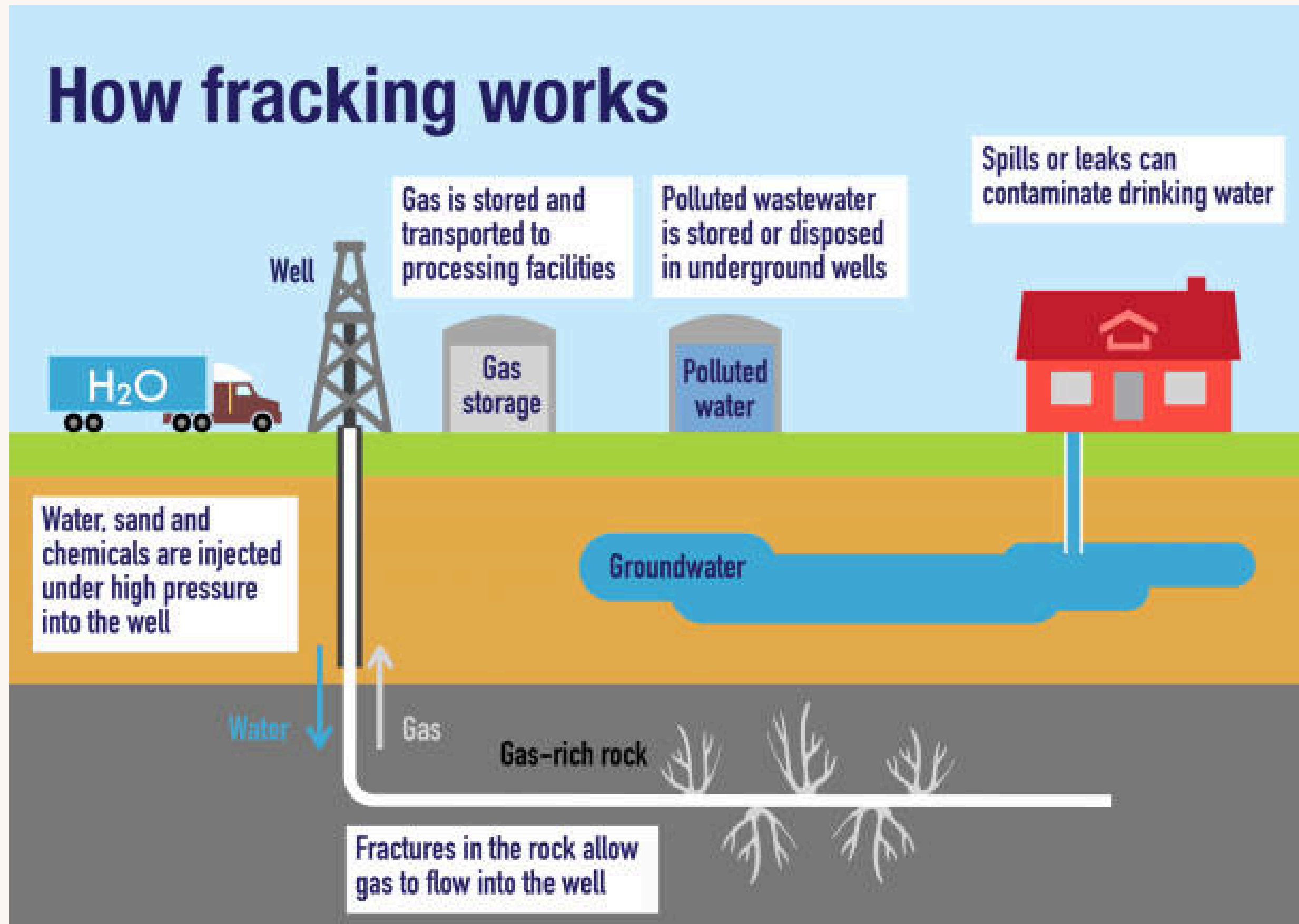
is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to protect, preserve and restore the Youghiogheny River watershed and its broader communities through conservation, recreation, education, and advocacy.

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**We may not lobby or provide legal advice.**

**Request: Industry or media representatives should identify themselves.**

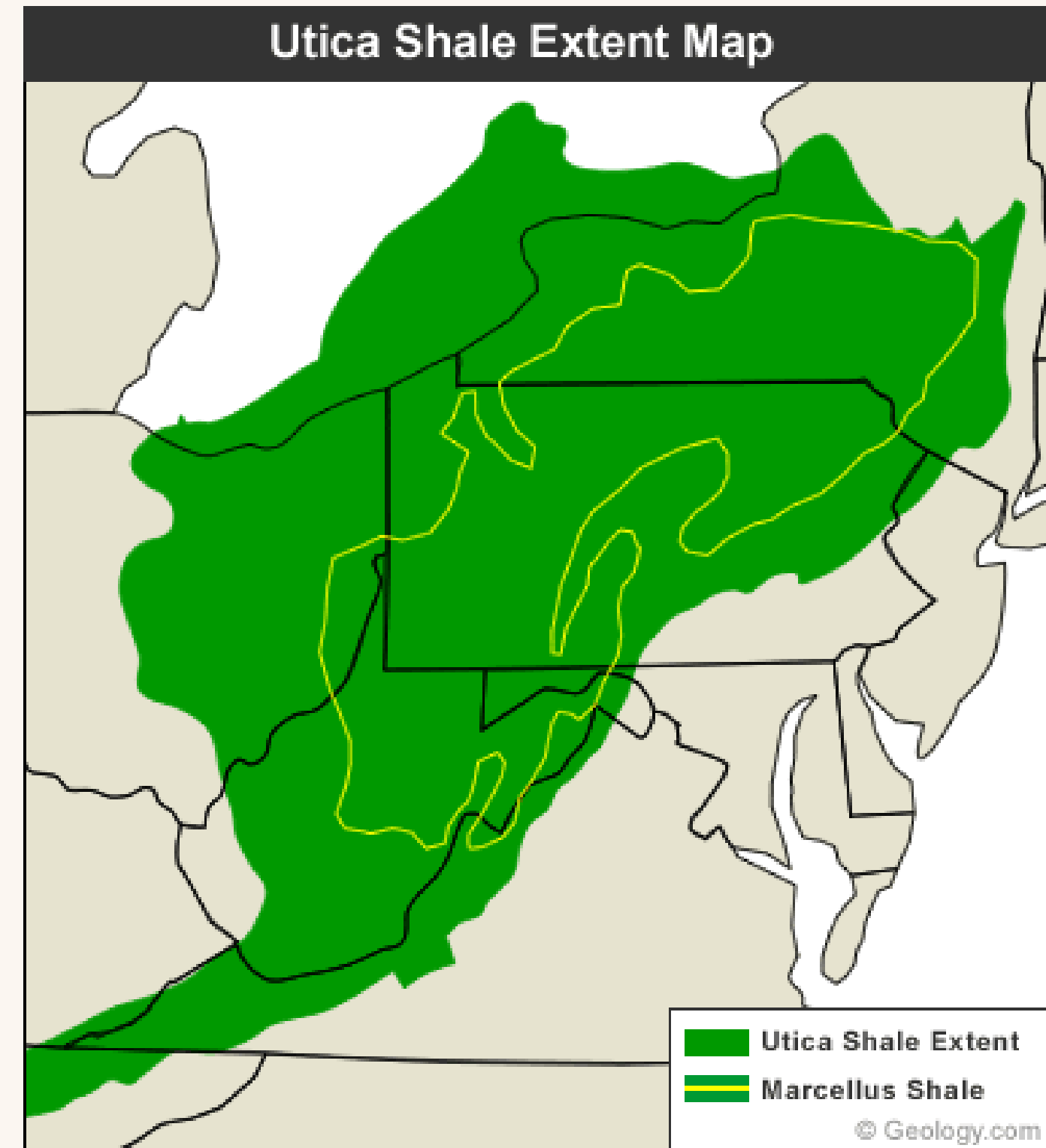
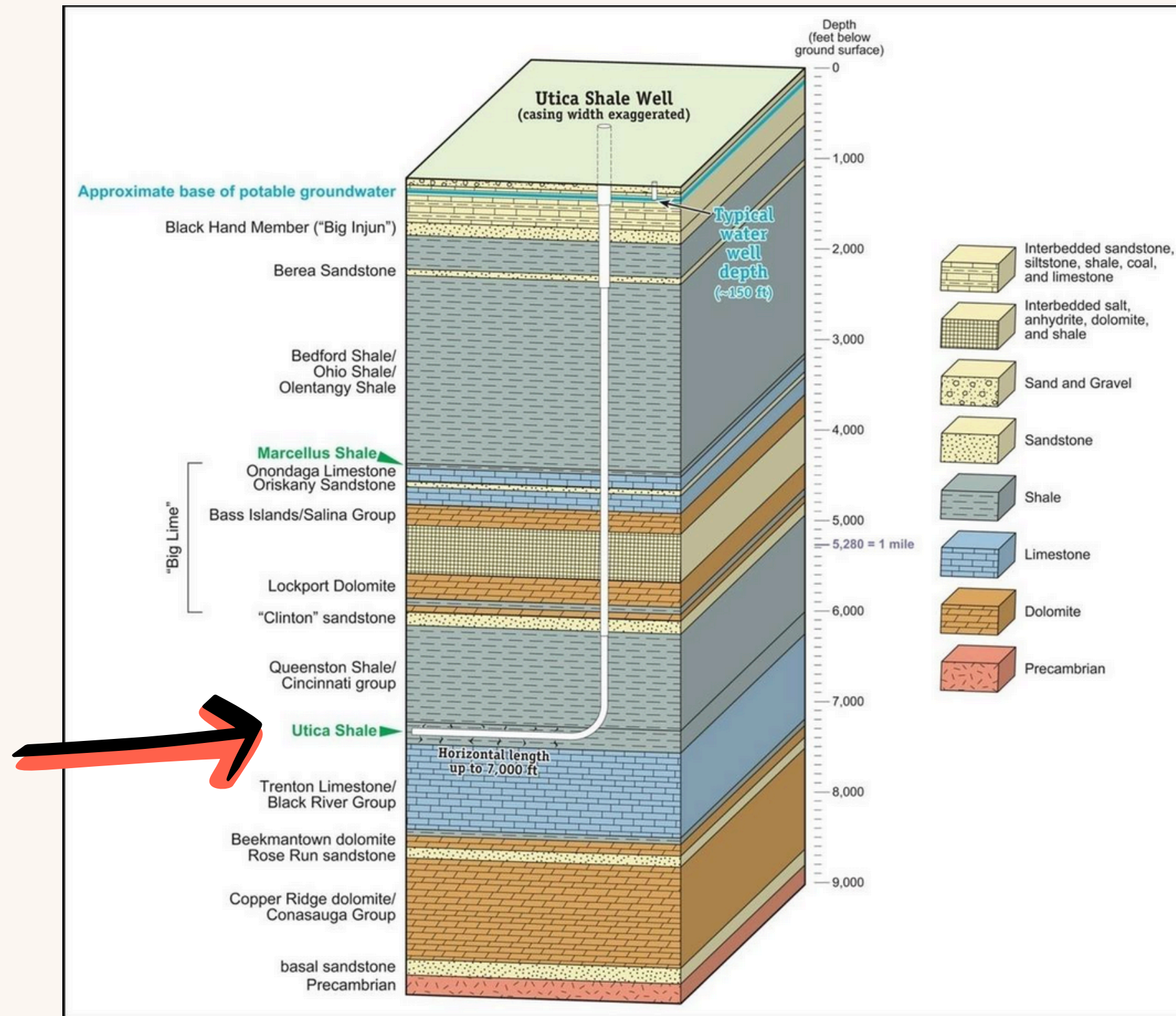
# What is hydraulic fracturing?





# Wellpad Proposal Overview

## Utica/Point Pleasant Formation





# New Well Pad Proposed: Tanta Bella/Shannon Compton Well Pad

PA.GOV OFFICIAL APP

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Jessica Shirley, Secretary

DEP Home

eFACTS on the Web

DEP Information

About DEP

DEP Home

Search eFACTS

Authorization Search

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Mammography Search

Name Search

Pollution Prevention

Sites by County/Municipality

Site Search

Other Sites

eMapPA

eNotice

EPA ECHO

EPA Envirofacts

Permits, Licensing, and Certification

The PA Code

Authorization Search Details

[Search again](#)

Authorization ID:	1529790
Permit number:	051-24729
Site:	<a href="#">Shannon Compton Well Pad</a>
Client:	<a href="#">P H MASTERLINE LLC</a>
Authorization type:	Drill & Operate Well Permit (Unconventional)
Application type:	New
Authorization is for:	FACILITY
Date received:	06/06/2025
Status:	Pending

[Public Permit Review](#)

Sub-Facilities for Authorization

Sub-Facility ID	Sub-Facility Name	Description	eMap PA Location
1448697	Horizontal POINT PLEASANT	Well	
1448696	Pilot Deviated TRENTON LIMESTONE	Well	

Authorization status: Pending

Permit Review Standard Task Information:

Task	Start Date	Target Date	Completion Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completeness Review	6/6/2025	n/a	6/24/2025
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Review	6/24/2025	11/3/2025	

Permit Review Notes:

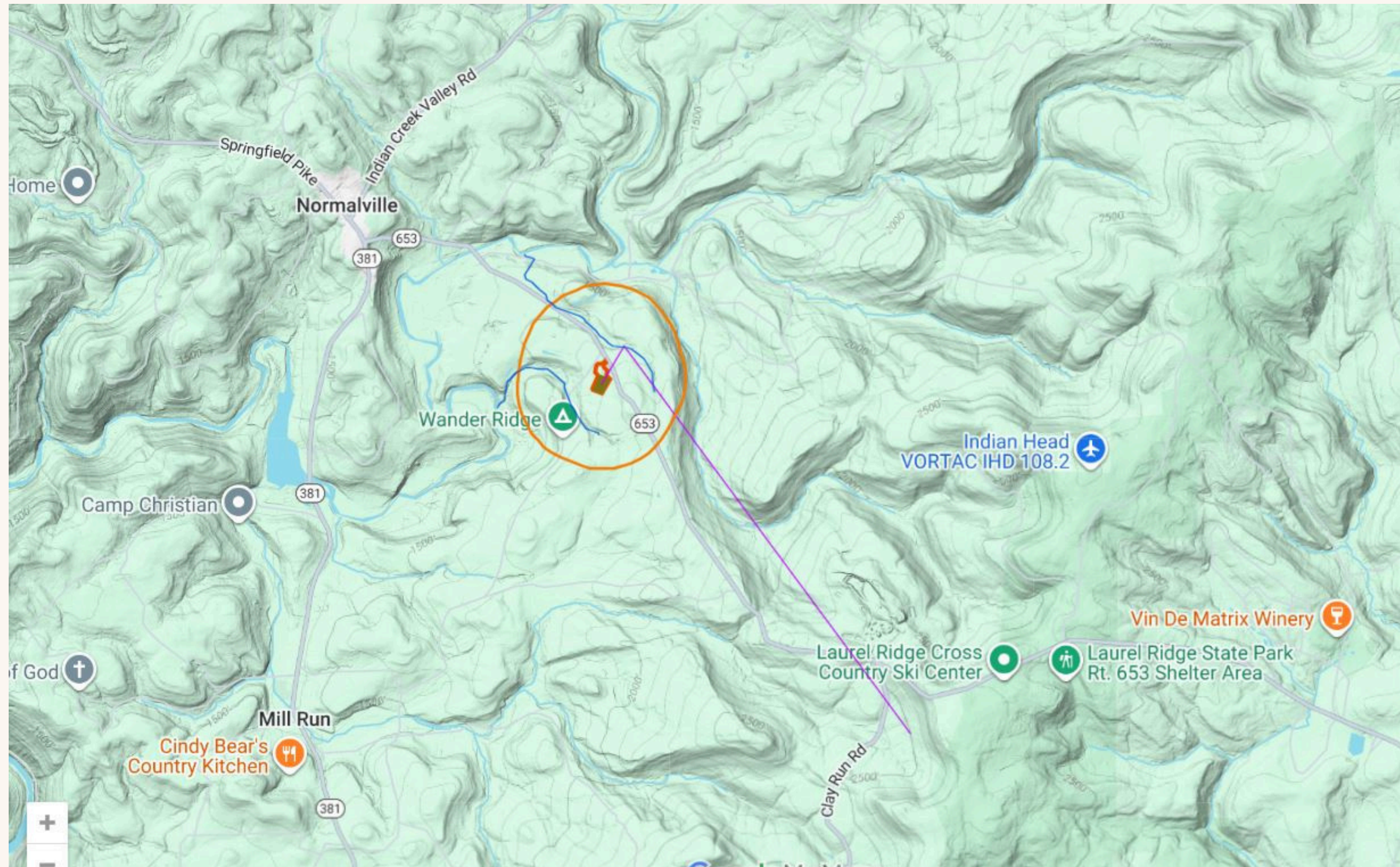
Date	Review Note
8/21/2025	The applicant has been issued a deficiency letter. The clock for DEP's review is paused.
8/15/2025	The applicant has been issued a deficiency letter. The clock for DEP's review is paused.
7/10/2025	The applicant has been issued a deficiency letter. The clock for DEP's review is paused.
6/24/2025	The applicant has been issued a deficiency letter. The clock for DEP's review is paused.
6/24/2025	The applicant has been issued a deficiency letter. The clock for DEP's review is paused.
6/24/2025	The application package is being checked to ensure it is complete.

[Log in to DEP's eNOTICE](#) to track this permit with automatic email updates

- Filed June 6, 2025
- The company applied for a new gas well pad.
- Located at near the intersection of 653/Jim Mountain Road and Kooser Road, Springfield Twp.
- DEP has not approved construction or drilling yet.
- DEP has issued several correction notices.
- **Very early in the process.**

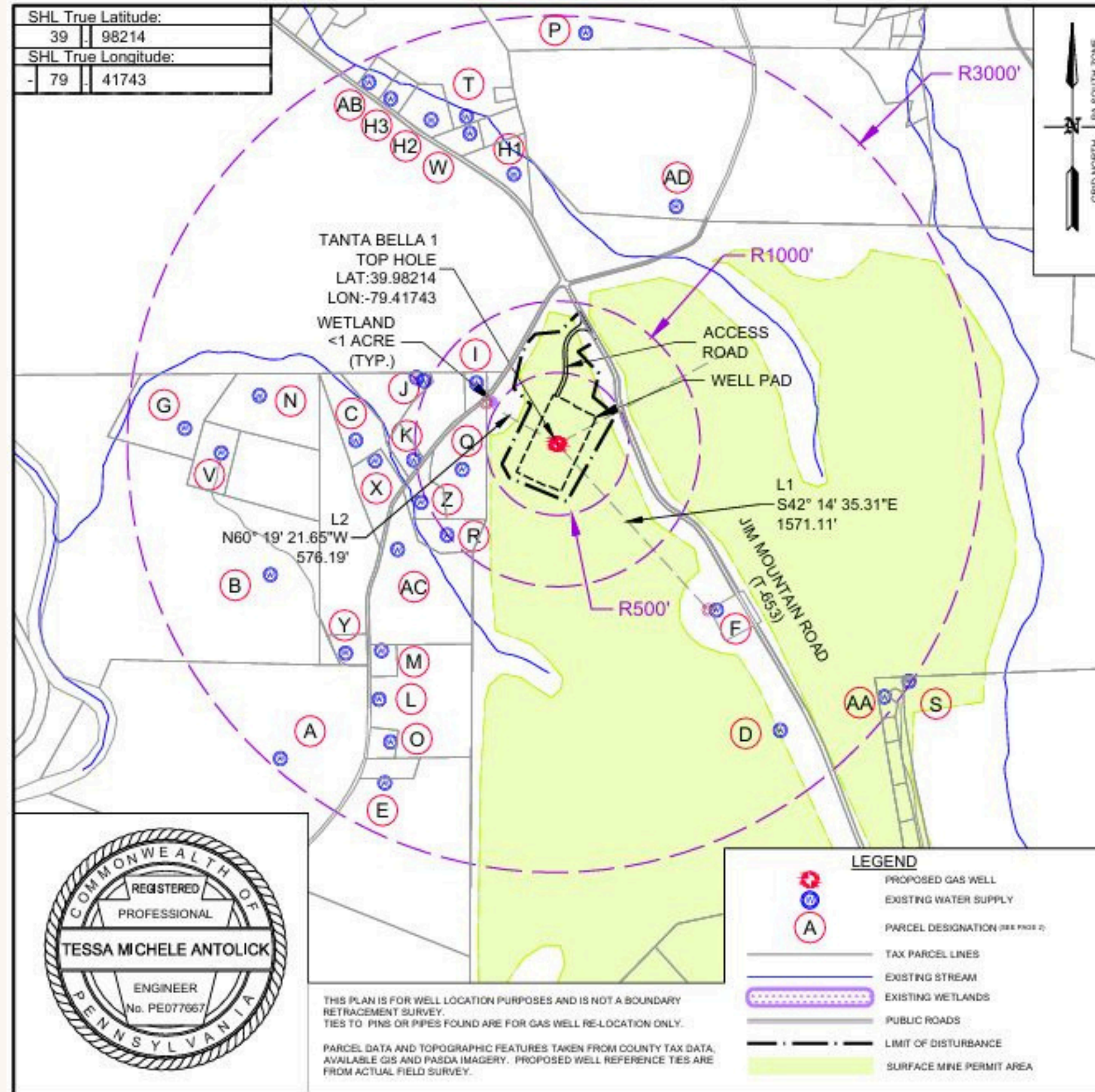


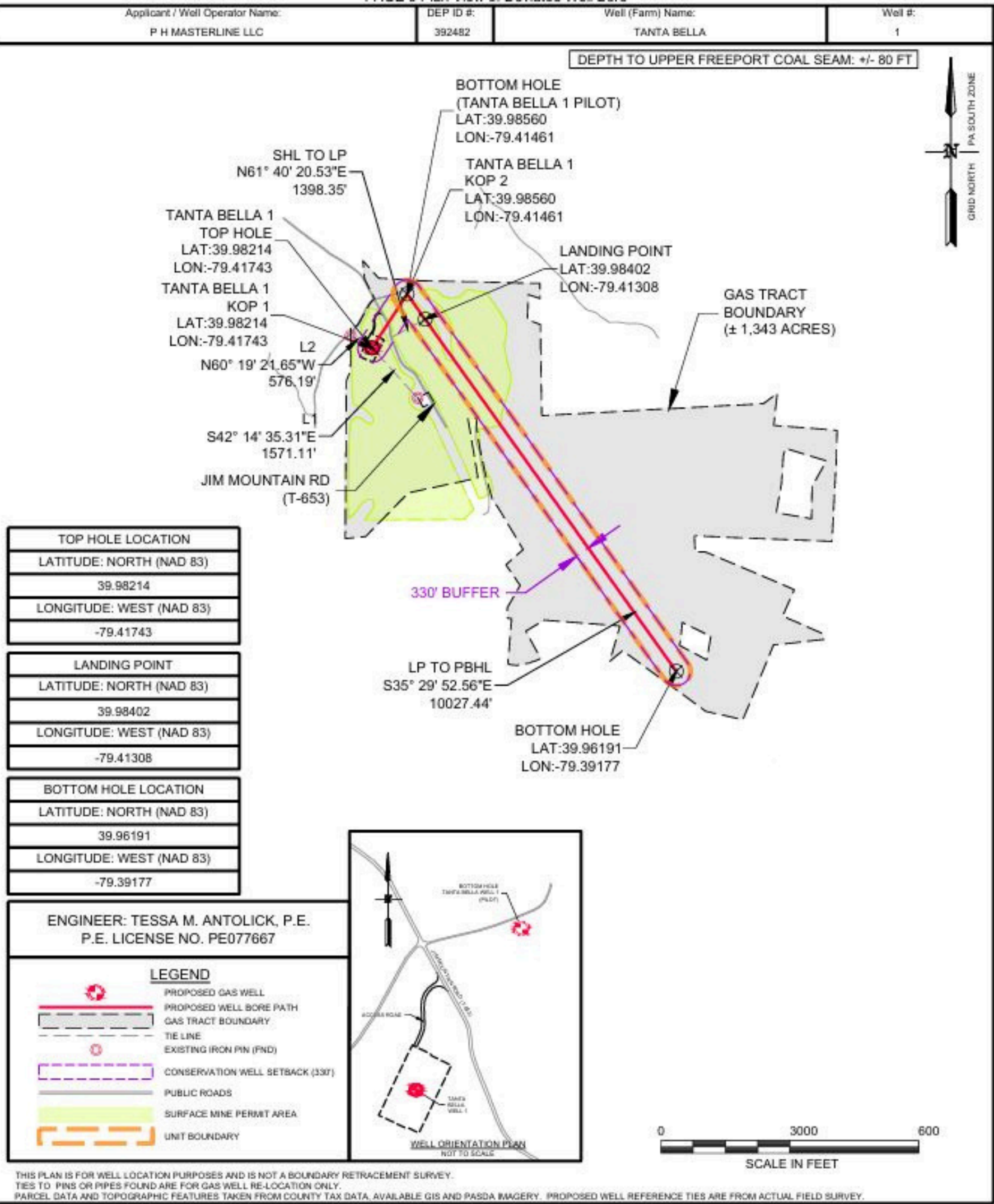
# New Well Pad Proposed: Tanta Bella/Shannon Compton Well Pad





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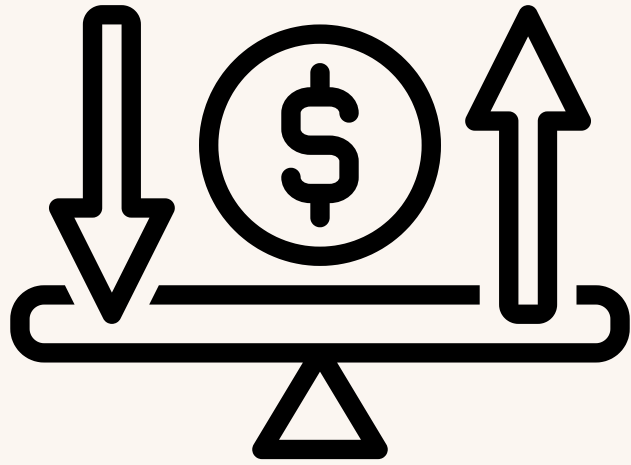
- **Watershed/Impacted Waterway:**

- Buck Run, Laurel Run, Indian Creek

- **General Concerns:**

- Fracking/Utica concerns
- Air Pollution
- Light Pollution
- Permanent destruction of an area
- Water Use
- Private water supplies: wells and springs
- Public water supplies
- Waterway impacts
- Quarry interaction
- Noise
- Truck traffic
- Waste - radioactive waste storage and placed in trucks; if no ponds would be in tanks.  
More tanks = more trucks. Ponds = breach concern.

# General Concerns and Considerations



**Economics:** While top oil and gas producing counties may experience short-term personal income benefits and short-term increases to employment, most of the positive impacts disappear within a few years after initial boom periods. Further, shale drilling activities exert a potential long-term negative effect on population growth in impacted areas.

**Water Contamination:** Spills during the management of hydraulic fracturing fluids, chemicals, and produced water can result in high concentrations of constituents reaching groundwater sources. Casings may be structurally inadequate or fail, allowing liquids or gas to move into groundwater resources.



**Air Pollution:** Air contaminants can be released throughout all stages of oil and gas extraction, including the drilling process, from wastewater, and during flaring. Emissions include pollutants such as particulate matter (PM 2.5), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and air toxics such as benzene and toluene. These can lead to increased rates of asthma, respiratory irritation, cardiovascular problems, even cancer.



# General Concerns and Considerations



**Light and Noise Pollution:** Fracking is a 24/7 operation and is well-documented to cause significant light and noise pollution, with harms to both human and environmental health. The floodlights used at wellpads are associated with sleep deprivation and mental health concerns, which reduces cognition and elevates mortality risks associated with dementia, heart attacks, and vehicle accidents. Many epidemiological studies have linked noise pollution with adverse health outcomes including diabetes, depression, birth complications, and cognitive impairment.

**Waste Management:** Wastewater from fracking is an extremely salty mix of water, oil and grease, metals, radioactive material, and manmade fracking chemicals. This can be highly toxic and damage both ecosystem and human health. Most environmental contamination from fracking operations occurs from spilled or otherwise improperly managed wastewater. At this time, there is no good solution for the wastewater produced from fracking operations. This liquid has been dumped into rivers and drinking water sources, spread on roads for ice or dust control, disposal in open pits, or underground injection wells.





# General Concerns and Considerations



**Increased Truck Traffic:** After well pad construction, rigging equipment, miles of steel tubing, storage equipment, sand, and toxic chemicals will be transported to the site. Cranes, tankers, cement trucks, flatbeds, oversize loads, monitoring trucks and others are to be expected coming and going from any fracking operation. Millions of gallons of toxic fracking wastewater are likely to be transported by truck on common use roads.

**Water Use:** A single Utica well uses 4.4-4.6 million gallons of water on average, and can use as much as 10 million gallons (between 7 and 16 Olympic-sized swimming pools). This water will either be transported by truck or pumped in from a nearby freshwater source, then will likely be stored onsite in temporary tanks.



**Permanent Land Destruction:** Wellpad construction requires operators to create a level surface. Even after a wellpad has concluded operations, it is impossible to return the land to its original state. The bore holes may continue to leak for many years, even when plugged, and sediment contamination may make the soil hazardous. If an aquifer becomes contaminated, it is extremely difficult and costly to restore it to its original state.



# Site-Specific Concerns and Considerations

**Well Cluster:** Per the permit materials, the proposed well pad is intended to host a **well cluster**, meaning that if this well pad is constructed and more than one well is approved, the aforementioned impacts could be greatly exacerbated. More water would be used; more harmful pollutants would impact the air; more radioactive waste would travel on the road.



**New Operator:** This is the first permit application PH Masterline has ever submitted. With this in mind, they are planning to attempt one of the most complex and resource-intensive fracks our region has seen. The company has previously registered as a pipeline operator, but has only existed since 2023.

# Next Steps: Permitting Timeline

## **What's Been Filed and What's Missing**

- Current filings: Erosion & Sediment, Stormwater, Well Drilling permits.
- Major gaps remain—missing wetland data, coal notifications, and proof of proper stormwater control.



# Next Steps: Permitting Timeline

## What's Been Submitted

- Applied (but incomplete):
  - Erosion & Sediment (E&S) – missing wetlands/streams data, infiltration tests.
  - Stormwater (PCSM) – incomplete runoff modeling.
  - Well Drilling (Act 13) – inconsistent mapping and missing landowner notices.
- Why it matters:
  - These omissions mean DEP can't verify if wetlands, wells, or nearby properties will be protected.

# Next Steps: Permitting Timeline

## What's Still Missing

- Permits still needed before drilling or production:
- Air Quality Permit (GP-5A) – required for emissions from engines and flares.
- Wetlands & Waterways (Ch. 105) – needed since a wetland exists nearby.
- NPDES Stormwater Permit (PAG-10) – required for runoff over 5 acres.
- Coal Coordination & Unitization – proof of coal notifications and gas rights.
- Waste Management Plan – no plan for drill cuttings or flowback water.



# Next Steps: Permitting Timeline

## Public Comment & Hearing Opportunities

- E&S and NPDES Permits
  - 30-day comment period; DEP may hold a public meeting or hearing if strong public interest
- Air Quality Permit (GP-5A) –
  - 30-day comment period; DEP may hold a public meeting or hearing if strong public interest.
- Waterways & Wetlands Permit (Ch.105)
  - 30-day comment period; DEP may hold a hearing if there's strong community interest.
- Well Drilling Permit (Act 13)
  - No formal comment period, but anyone directly affected can request a § 3251 conference with DEP

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights: Leasing

**If you own land in Pennsylvania and live over the Utica Shale, it's crucial to understand your rights and risks related to oil and gas leasing, especially under a process called unitization**

## What Is Unitization?

- Unitization is when multiple landowners' tracts are combined into a single drilling "unit" for the purpose of extracting oil and gas efficiently. In Pennsylvania, drillers can include your land in a unit even if you haven't signed a lease—under certain conditions.



# Next Steps: Know Your Rights: Leasing

## Can You Be Forced to Lease?

You can't be forced to sign a lease. However, if:

- Your land is part of a pooled unit, and
- You own the mineral rights, and
- Enough of your neighbors have already signed leases,

...then a driller may legally extract oil or gas from under your land without your direct consent, though you may be entitled to royalties.

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights: Leasing

This depends heavily on whether you still own your mineral rights. Many people don't realize they might have:

- Sold them previously,
- Inherited them unknowingly,
- Or had them severed during a past sale.



# Next Steps: Know Your Rights: Leasing

## Check: Do You Still Own Your Mineral Rights?

- Review your deed or title chain (go back at least 2–3 owners).
- Visit your County Recorder of Deeds to see if the mineral rights were severed.
- Contact a real estate attorney or title company that specializes in oil and gas.

In some cases, a title search may reveal that you don't own the rights, meaning you can't lease or stop drilling activity on your property.

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights: Leasing

If You Do Own the Rights...

Before signing anything:

- Consult an oil and gas attorney. Lease terms can be negotiated.

\*Attorneys can take a percentage of royalties as fees

- Ask about:
  - Royalty percentages (don't settle for the bare minimum).
  - Shut-in payments, surface use clauses, and environmental protections.
- Don't be rushed by a landman (leasing agent). **Take your time.**



# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

## **Protecting Your Water Supply**

- Living near a gas well pad means potential risk to private wells and springs.
- Baseline testing before drilling is your best legal protection.
- Without baseline data, companies can claim contamination was pre-existing.

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

## **Protecting Your Water Supply**

The Law: Rebuttable Presumption (58 Pa.C.S. § 3218)

- If your water goes bad within 2,500 feet and 1 year of drilling, the company is presumed responsible.
- This presumption protects you only if you have baseline test results.
- Without them, you lose this automatic protection.



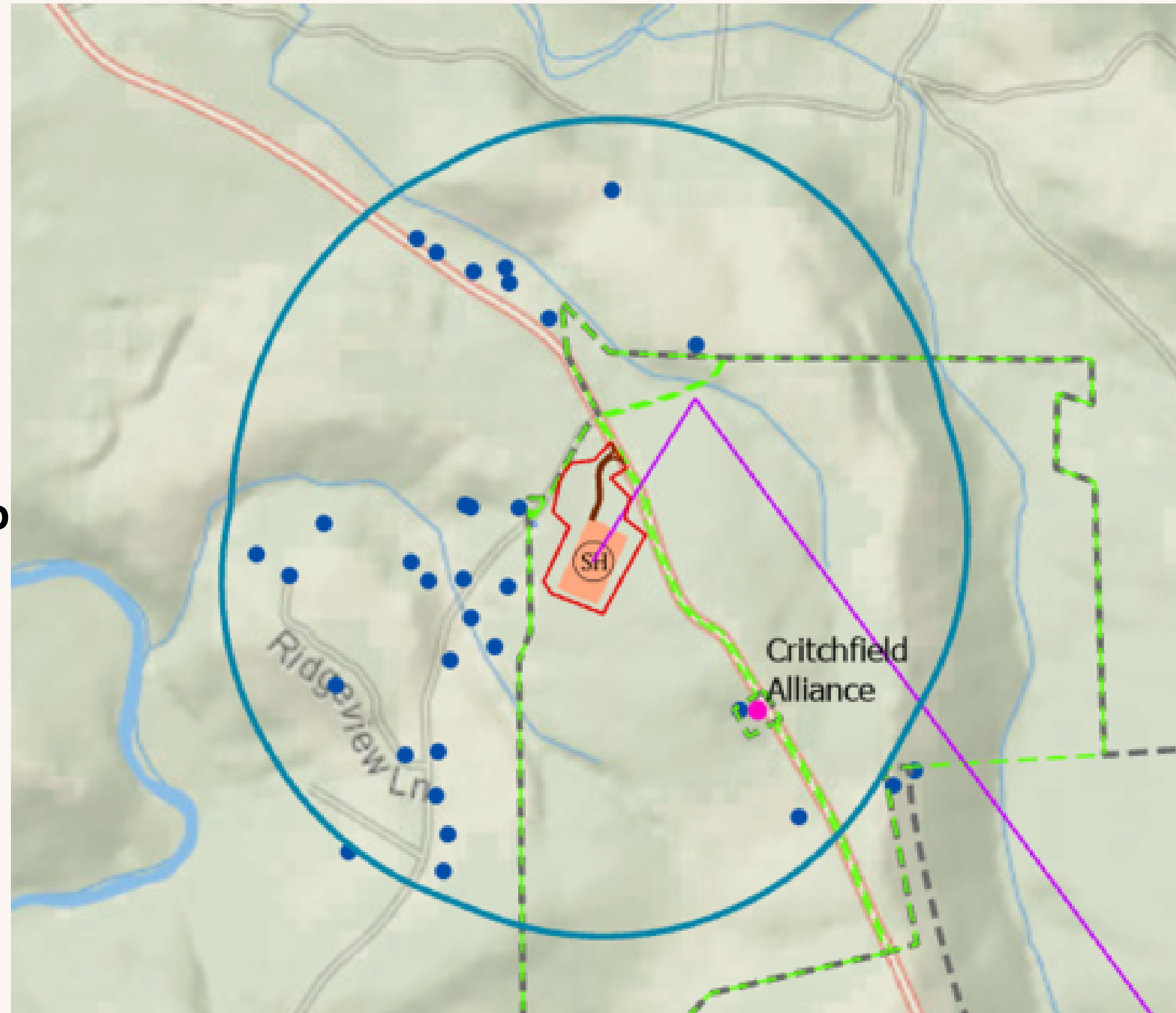
# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

## **Protecting Your Water Supply**

- Who Qualifies for Free Baseline Testing
  - Anyone with a private well, spring, or cistern within 2,500 feet of the well pad.
  - The operator must offer and pay for testing.
  - Residents outside that zone can still test independently to document baseline conditions.

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

**Approximate rendering of homes located within 2,500 ft. of the well pad.**





# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

## **Protecting Your Water Supply**

- When & How to Get Tested
  - Before drilling starts – ideally well before DEP posts the permit notice
  - Confirm: written consent, full parameter list, copies of results.
  - Keep your copies – scan or save digitally.
  - Retest if water changes color, smell, or pressure.

# Next Steps: Know Your Rights

## **Protecting Your Water Supply**

- Tips to Strengthen Protection
  - Don't decline baseline testing
  - Document everything: names, dates, forms
  - Time/date stamped photographs, notes, journal entries, emails, can all help establish evidence of pre-drill water quality



# Action Items: Community Response

- **Do not lease; talk to your neighbors about risk or concern!**
- **Background monitoring at your property!**
- **Road Signs - a great way to bring awareness**
- **Let's discuss community meeting frequency...**
- **Attending Township and County Meetings**
  - **Springfield Township:** meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 4:30pm at Township Building (behind Springfield Twp Volunteer Hose Company)
  - **Fayette County Commissioners:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:00am, 2 W Main Street, Uniontown, PA (Gallatin Building)

# Action Items

- **3251 Conference Sign Up**
  - Nearby property owners (homes or land within or close to the project)
  - Anyone whose water source (like a well or spring) within or near the project which could be affected
  - Customers of a public water authority if their water supply could be impacted by the project
- **Stay tuned to updates!** Sign in to stay up to date!

