



EMC News

March 4, 2009

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GAS DRILLING SUBCOMMITTEE

Submitted by Amy Risen

The Environmental Review Committee's gas drilling subcommittee will meet on second Wednesdays from at 6-7pm at the Haunt on Willow Ave (fyi, the kitchen is open at 6pm).

This month we will be discussing how we may advise our county, municipalities and homeowners on leasing their land for gas drilling and managing the associated wastes. We should consider what kinds of questions these entities are asking as well as the many resources we have in the county who we can collaborate with to provide answers. This topic has already been heavily discussed over the past 6 months in our county, so our goal may be to compile some good advice into a document for the community to use as a resource. Let's keep our ears open and figure out what the current need is. This meeting will be a brainstorming meeting, so please come with ideas!

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Environmental Review Committee will be meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Old Jail Conference Room (125 E. Court St.) at 5:30 PM. This schedule is established through October.

Education/Website is meeting on Tuesday, 3/10 at 6:30 PM at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Room B.

Transportation/Air Quality is meeting on 3/11 at 6:15 PM (at TCAT before EMC meeting)

OUR GUEST FOR MARCH 11TH

Submitted by Amy Risen

Our speaker for the 3/11 EMC meeting is Paul Jennette from the Cornell Veterinary Medicine Biosafety Program. Our community is currently debating over whether or not to accept liquified waste from the college into our wastewater treatment plant. Gary Stewart forwarded the 2/12 Ithaca Journal article below when he suggested a speaker on this topic. If you're not familiar with the issue, please check it out at: <http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20090212/NEWS01/902120329>

GAS DRILLING EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

Submitted by Kathy Wilsea

Shaleshock is sponsoring the following meeting for citizens to learn more about the impacts of gas drilling in our community:

Thursday, 3/26, 6:30 PM at Ithaca High School Cafeteria – "Natural Gas Drilling and Public Health Issues" with Albert Appleton, Senior Fellow at City University of NY Institute for Urban Systems, former New York City Commissioner for Environmental Protection. This meeting will focus on possibilities of groundwater and soil contamination and problems disposing of waste back-flow.

Also, with dates to be announced:

April – "Efforts to Protect Clean Drinking Water", with Dr. Stephen Penningroth and Dr. Theo Colborn.

May – "The Role of Local Governments in Gas Drilling Operations", with Dr. William Pammer.

Upcoming EMC meetings!

March 11th at 7:00pm

April 8th, May 13th

At the Transit Center

Members: If you are unable to attend, please contact Amy Risen, Chair (ajr53@cornell.edu) or Kathy Wilsea, Secretary (274-5560 or kwilsea@tompkins-co.org)