

Comment to CAC by Karen Feridun, September 10, 2024

Last November, Governor Shapiro and Nick Deiluiliis, CEO of CNX entered into a voluntary agreement called “Radical Transparency.” For CNX’s part, the “Radical Transparency” program is a cynical attempt to undermine those harmed by fracking by discrediting the [thousands of peer-reviewed papers, government reports, and media investigations](#) that have demonstrated grave harms fracking poses to health, safety, the environment, and climate.

CNX has made no secret of its agenda. Since the program was announced, the [Radical Transparency](#) page of CNX’s website has said, “We believe that the Radical Transparency program will definitively confirm for all stakeholders that there are no human health problems related to natural gas development.”

On August 14, CNX [told investors](#) its [Radical Transparency assessment report](#) released that day provided that confirmation.

The report states the “problem:”

“Unfounded accusations and innuendo drive current popular narratives regarding the potential health impacts of responsible natural gas development. The agendas of those ideologically or financially opposed to progress and development have pointed to ambiguous and suspect statistics to goal-seek to their desired conclusions. This results in policy lines being drawn based on speculation, emotion, fear, and ideology instead of objective facts and data. At CNX, we believe this business-as-usual state of play must change.”

The company uses as its refutation of decades of research data from 14 hand-selected sites gathered over a span of months.

CNX has been cited with nearly 2,100 violations since fracking began in Pennsylvania, 584 since their no-contest plea to charges filed by then-Attorney General Shapiro, and 42 since the company partnered with now-Governor Shapiro on the Radical Transparency initiative less than nine months ago.

The punchline to this bad joke and one of the reasons I wanted to share this story with you today is because of a [letter](#) 40 organizations and 13 individuals sent to Secretary Jennifer Granholm at the end of August.

We wanted to express our outrage that the DOE lists the Shapiro/CNX Radical Transparency deal in its ARCH2 Community Benefits Commitments Summary under the category of Equitable Impacts on a list of examples of how the hub is working to implement Justice 40 principles at the site level.

There are plenty of reasons to oppose hydrogen hubs. Not the least of them is that DOE is so disconnected from what’s happening at “site level” that they don’t understand that Radical Transparency is a slap in the face to all of the victims of fracking who will continue to be victimized to provide blue hydrogen’s feedstock.

Thank you.