

FracTracker Alliance Comment to the Citizens Advisory Council

February 10, 2025

FracTracker Alliance and other environmental organizations across Pennsylvania have been vocal in opposing Governor Shapiro's partnership with CNX, a fracked gas company seeking to influence public discourse and policy through its so-called Radical Transparency program.

Our analysis has found nothing particularly *radical* about CNX's approach to protecting public health. What is transparent, however, is their intent: to position themselves as the ultimate authority on fracking operations in Pennsylvania while dismissing independent science and public concerns.

Extensive peer-reviewed research has already established that air, soil, and water pollution from unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD) contributes to serious health impacts, including respiratory disease, cancer, cardiovascular issues, congenital disabilities, and premature birth. Additionally, UOGD exposes workers and residents to dangerous levels of radioactive material.

Fracking not only contaminates water but also depletes fresh water resources. Water use per well has increased dramatically, with each fracking operation now consuming an average of 14.3 million gallons of fresh water.

Despite these well-documented risks, CNX Resources President and CEO Nick Deiuiliis has made claims that contradict decades of independent scientific research:

The initial results and ongoing monitoring from our Radical Transparency program indicate that natural gas development done the CNX way is safe and inherently good for the communities where we operate. We call on our industry peers to join us in these important efforts to ensure that public policy in Pennsylvania is driven by directly-measured data and facts instead of agendas and speculation."

The conflict of interest here is obvious. CNX is attempting to use its own selectively reported data to shape public policy while dismissing decades of peer-reviewed research that demonstrates the public health risks of fracking. Allowing a fracked gas company to dictate the terms of environmental and health policy would be irresponsible and a disservice to Pennsylvanians.



We urge the Citizens Advisory Council to take the following actions to protect public health and environmental integrity in Pennsylvania:

Reject CNX's Radical Transparency program as a credible source for policy-making.

Industry-generated data should not replace independent, peer-reviewed research.

Strengthen regulatory oversight of industry self-reporting. Any industry-reported data must be subject to independent verification and strict accountability measures.

Ensure public policy is based on independent, peer-reviewed science. Policy decisions must prioritize unbiased, scientifically rigorous research over corporate-driven narratives.

Public policy based on self-reported data from a fracked gas company would undermine the integrity of Pennsylvania's environmental governance and endanger public health. The Citizens Advisory Council has a responsibility to ensure that decisions are informed by scientific evidence, not corporate interests.

We ask that you stand with communities, scientists, and public health experts—not polluters.

Sincerely,

Shannon Smith
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