

Thank you for hearing me today.

My name is Tom Pike. I am an Environmental Policy Advocate with Protect PT, a local non-profit which seeks to safeguard Pennsylvanians' rights to clean air and water under Article 1, Section 27 of the PA Constitution. We operate mainly in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties, and many of our members live in the shadow of fracking wells owned and operated by CNX.

I want to caution members of the CAC to be skeptical of what you may hear from this company. CNX has declared that they are undertaking a path of "radical transparency". We'll believe it when we see it.

The CNX we have seen operate in our communities has been a rampant and unrepentant polluter. They have logged countless violations with the DEP. They've been given free license by our regulators and water authorities to operate however they want. During drought, when our local water authority has asked residents to cut back on watering their vegetable gardens, CNX continues to withdraw millions of gallons from Beaver Run Reservoir. CNX even illegally took some 389,518 gallons in 2023, and although they were made to pay a fine, the water is unrecoverable. It has been contaminated with radioactivity that was once contained within the Marcellus shale layer, and it cannot be returned to the watershed.

That water was, according to the Constitution, the common property of all Pennsylvanians, but it is ours no longer. It was the common property of generations yet to come, but none of them will be able to use it for any purpose.

"Radical transparency" is a branding choice. We haven't seen changes on the ground that reflect it. Be wary of promises from this corporation that are not verified by Pennsylvania residents who live near this company's operations.

In closing, I will note that CNX's leadership does not allow their company to frack wells in their own backyards. If given the chance, please ask them why. Ask them why they do not put fracking wells on their own properties, or, if there is no gas beneath their properties, why they do not move to be nearer to fracking wells. Ask them why, if their "radical transparency" is not enough for their own families to feel safe near fracking wells, it should be good enough for other families.

Thank you for your time.