**Report on Injection Wells**

**For Green Sanctuary Committee November 21, 2021 Meeting**

I have no updates at this time on follow-up meetings to the September meeting on injection wells in Washington County nor on the legal case against parties involved in injection wells being developed by the law firm, Bordas & Bordas.

I have recently been contacted by a group called Waste Barge Working Group, which uses the handle of “No Hot Barges.” The latter name derives from the fact that most brine waste from fracking wells is radioactive. Their focus on barge traffic mostly on the Ohio River means that WV is involved in this effort (the Ohio River between OH & WV is considered within WV). Most of this fracking waste, however, is bound for Ohio-specifically Washington County- since PA and WV have stricter rules on injecting fracking waster than OH does. It’s the U.S. Coast Guard that is responsible for monitoring the safety and health of products shipped on the Oho River. This group holds a virtual meeting every Thursday, which I have not yet been able to attend.

Following is a statement of this group’s mission:

 *Protect the 3 Rivers! Say no to barging fracking wastewater that includes highly toxic metals, volatile compounds, and radioactive radium along our 3 rivers that supply drinking water and safe recreation to millions of people. These toxic compounds are known to cause serious health problems, including cancers and death. Sign a petition to tell the US Coast Guard and US Army Corps of Engineers to say no to barging fracking waste.* [*https://protectpt.info/nobarging*](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fprotectpt.info%252Fnobarging&hmac=4aa9bdcd14cc086f71afa620ae8b49e2) *#ProtectOurWater #CleanWaterIsLife #WeLoveOurWater #NoHotBarges.*

Please know that this effort of advocating against fracking waste and injection wells is important for addressing climate change. The extraction of natural gas, done mainly by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the Utica shale deposits in this region, involves a lot of methane emissions, health, and environmental risks. The transport and injection of all the waste associated with this fracking is critical to the total process of fracking—without the ability to dispose of brine waste, the extraction of natural gas would be impossible.

Last week I was contacted by Ted Auch, who manages the “Frac Tracker” project, which monitors fracking and Class II injection wells (for brine waste) in the region. I sent him the summaries of the reports (from ODNR) I wrote on injection wells in Washington County and all the unanswered questions about these reports. He and I will be collaborating on expanding this review of injection well reports to other counites in the state.

George Banziger