**Panel of Experts to Speak about Risks of Fracking Ohio State Parks**

**Our legislature and governor are allowing fracking of our public lands. Attend a science based panel addressing the effects this will have**

 **this Wed., at 10 am, in Columbus or virtually.**

 Our state public lands are currently under threat of oil and gas extraction, and leasing nominations are taking place. The leasing is overseen by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Land Management Commission (OGLMC).

 In response to protests, the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission has invited a distinguished panel, recommended by environmental groups, to present information on emergency preparedness for fracking accidents, the effects of oil and gas extraction on ecosystems, and fracking impacts on water, waste, air, and surrounding landscapes. The presentation will be Wednesday, June 28, at 10 a.m. in the ODNR complex in Columbus, Ohio.

 Please make an effort to attend either in person or virtually. If you can attend the meeting in person on Wednesday, June 28, that would be great so the commission will feel pressure to be more accountable about its evaluation methods when deciding whether to approve or deny a lease for a specific parcel of public land to be fracked.

 In-person: The Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road Building E, 1st Floor Assembly Center West, Columbus, OH 43229

 Virtual: If you cannot attend in person, please watch the livestream online at 10 a.m. on June 28. You will learn about the parks to be affected, especially Salt Fork’s 20,000 acres! You can find more information including a link to the livestream through Microsoft Teams at the OGLMC web page here.[https://ohiodnr.gov/.../oil-gas-land-management...](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fohiodnr.gov%2Fbusiness-and-industry%2Fmunicipalities-and-public-entities%2Fcommissions-and-councils%2Foil-gas-land-management-commission%3Flink_id%3D1%26can_id%3D6a9e4c2f2d566a2724c08247be537420%26source%3Demail-wednesday-10-am-environmental-experts-to-speak-to-state-commission%26email_referrer%3Demail_1969151%26email_subject%3Dwednesday-experts-on-risks-effects-of-fracking-to-speak-to-state-commission%26fbclid%3DIwAR2mSMz3xi6OZPm2JCDdJZ09hGOb47LFl-uPu5atgMgjIUzcWo2tWx3BE_Y&h=AT3TI40mlcMtVlProyGrfXPYavnRD2RFt403PsVYKEBeCkmBY5qrEj_Y_RYOjkAT5ZrDjoQyLSJjLilvfwbfobT9ObZI2lWy6EGGdW4PsXouHm7qP9KXkR98z06KnRssEbmYnta6ZP5JJVRiCbLvWU4&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2iB6rETPHomQ6OW0e2UHg-BiNXMXaNhfjt-pghSnzL6JNme_G_7gUTkpoGd9HW9CMhvA9ZzyVFGlcGB4Mf1MKLZhoKZlKfPX76Bjm0SzNiQzRxKAYkGAuJ1tZl8s_jXgaqxpziybOXZGYqhCs8mhA3pO8)

Please take notes and plan to follow up with questions to the commission after the panel. This is our opportunity to highlight the critical issues before the commission and to demand answers to our questions. You can send your questions to Commission.Clerk@oglmc.ohio.gov

 **The panel of experts**

 Silverio Caggiano is a retired Youngstown Fire Battalion Chief and HazMat Specialist. He sits on Ohio Hazardous Materials and WMD Technical Advisory Committee.

 Dr. Randi Pokladnik has a PhD in Environmental Studies, AAS in Environmental Engineering, BA in Chemistry, and is HazMat Regulations Certified. Her research includes examining the threats to non-timber forest species in Central Appalachia. She is also focused on climate change and how intact forests can be used to mitigate carbon emissions. She lives with her husband at Tappan Lake, Harrison County, Ohio, in the middle of fracking country and has personal experience with the effects of fracking in communities and on ecosystems.

 Dr. Ted Auch has been researching the water, waste, landscape, and community impacts of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) or fracking in the Ohio River Valley and beyond for 10+ years in his capacity at a 501c3 non-profit, FracTracker Alliance. He earned his PhD in Environmental Science modeling climate change's disparate impacts on above- and below-ground processes in a variety of forests around the planet.

**For questions to the commission, please email Nathan Moffitt, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, at Commission.Clerk@oglmc.ohio.gov**