Concerned Citizens to bring screening of Gasland to Greensboro

Destructive method of natural gas drilling could come to North Carolina in 2012

GREENSBORO - A coalition of concerned citizens will sponsor on June 23 a screening in Greensboro of portions of the film "Gasland" and a discussion of issues related to hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in North Carolina.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at Elon University School of Law in downtown Greensboro. The meeting will take place in Room 207. The school is at the intersection of Friendly Avenue and Greene Street, located at 201 North Greene Street.

Hydraulic fracturing is a method of drilling for natural gas deposits that are trapped in shale rock formations deep within the Earth. The method involves pumping vast amounts of fresh water into the ground via pipe. The pipe is turned horizontal and the water, mixed with other substances, is injected at very high pressure through outlets in the pipe and into the rock formations. This mixture creates fissures in the Earth, which allows gas to escape and be captured and stored for commercial use.

This method of drilling, both hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, is currently banned by rule in the state of North Carolina. A core group of legislators in both the North Carolina House and Senate have stated a goal of overturning the rule and allowing hydraulic fracturing in North Carolina within the next two years. There are large deposits of shale gas in Lee, Chatham, Rockingham and Davie counties.

Gasland is an independent film made in response to one man's curiosity about this new method of drilling for natural gas. The film received a Special Jury Prize for Documentary at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. It tracks the experiences of residents of a region of Pennsylvania that was opened to hydraulic fracturing just a few years ago.

Representatives from the Deep River Clean Water Society (Lee and Chatham counties), Clean Water for North Carolina and local elected officials will be present to answer questions and facilitate discussion.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informal social time, followed by a screening of portions of the film at 7 p.m. At about 8:30 p.m. we will stop the film and have a time for questions and discussion with concerned activists and state Rep. Pricey Harrison of Greensboro, a leader in the effort to protect our state's irreplaceable natural resources.

Press inquiries concerning the event may be made to Jeff Sykes at 336-552-7339 (not for public release please) or jeffreyhsykes@gmail.com via email. Other press inquiries should be directed to the organizations involved with the screening and the effort to educate the public regarding this issue.
About the film Gasland:

“The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. The Halliburton developed drilling technology called “fracking” or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a “Saudi Arabia of natural gas” just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country road trip to find the answer to this question. A nearby Pennsylvania town which was recently drilled reports that residents are able to light their drinking water on fire. This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called Gasland. Part verite’ travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown, Gasland is a crosscountry odyssey with unexpected humor, uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination.”

http://www.gaslandthemovie.com/

Other contacts:

Clean Water for North Carolina:


Deep River Clean Water Society: