

GAS WATCH

It is essential to bear witness.

If you are interested in actively watching for accidents, misdeeds or dangerous situations around gas drilling, consider these tips:

- You have every right to travel public roads, follow vehicles, photograph anything you see from the road
- If possible, have someone with you. Teamwork is useful
- Drive area roads so you know the names and where they come out – and it's good to know of a nearby road so you can “ask for directions.”
- Take as many photos as possible of any activity or situation that concerns you – from a few different angles if possible.
- If confronted, stay calm and firm but not aggressive, threatening or confrontational.

What to watch for:

- road spraying or any truck dumping or dribbling anything – particularly “septic” trucks
- a gas well fire or any fire near a well – it might just be “flaring” which is allowed
- any truck taking water from a pond or stream. Is the required permit posted at withdrawal site?
- spilled chemicals : any brightly colored or strong smelling fluids
- fracking fluids around a pit, holes in the liner, or fluid spilling over or seeping from a wellsite
- leaking from tanks or pipes on a wellpad
- seismic testing or ANYTHING you think is not right — write it down.

Always have in your car or purse/backpack:

- a good county road map. Be careful : some things that look like roads on the map may be logging trails, or seasonal roads in poor condition. A 4WD may be useful.
- fully charged cell phone – although many hilly areas lack reception
- extra set of car keys on outside of car: don't get locked out of your car by mistake!
- camera (digital w/time/date stamp is best) & audio recorder if possible, or camcorder
- clean glass jars with blank labels/permanent marker. If you can, sterilize them by boiling 10 minutes and sealing while hot.
- rubber gloves
- a hat or two, sunglasses, camo clothes or orange vest, raincoat, etc. (for disguise)
- bound notebook – not a spiral pad or 3-ring binder A bound book provides stronger proof later: pages can't be added/torn out. Cross out any blank space at the bottom after taking notes to prove you did not go back later to add/fabricate evidence.
- Optional: flashlight, binoculars, compass, GPS.

Following:

If you see a water truck or fracking truck leave a gas well site and you have the time, follow it. They move fast. A few tricks: turn your headlights on when following, then when the truck is out of sight, turn them off so they are not as likely to realize they are being followed. You could also add or remove a hat or sunglasses. Remove or cover bumper stickers or magnet decals on your car – they make your car easy to recognize.

To collect samples:

Wear gloves! Make sure containers are glass. Put sample in jar and immediately label with location, date, circumstances. Also record this in a separate log/bound notebook. Or make notes on a voice recorder or have someone photo or video you taking the sample with the time/date stamp feature turned on.

Use the form on the reverse side to remind yourself of what information to record.

GAS WATCH INCIDENT REPORT FORM

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

LOCATION: be as exact as possible – miles from next intersection, note obvious landmarks, etc. Take notes from the gas companies signs at end of driveways that identify wells by landowners name and other info.

ACTIVITY / SITUATION of CONCERN: Describe in as much detail as time permits – photos will help. Note things that can't be shown in photos such as strong odors, sounds, etc.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS: To match notes to the photos on a digital or other camera.

VEHICLE INFO:

TYPE: _____

LOGO/COMPANY NAME: _____

LICENCE PLATE NUMBER: _____

DIRECTION/SPEED OF TRAVEL/Name of Road: _____

Some of these things could end up in court years from now, and documentation from the time of occurrence will be invaluable to establish a credible witness.

After filling out this form, make a photocopy.
Mail one to: Gaswatch, PO Box 443, Delhi, NY 13753
Keep one in your files

OR

email the above information (scan if possible) to un-naturalgas@gmail.com