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For Immediate Release  
September 18, 2012

SHALEGASOUTRAGE.ORG

Contacts: Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth, (c) 610-678-7726 [berksgastruth@gmail.com](mailto:berksgastruth@gmail.com)  
Iris Marie Bloom, Protecting Our Waters, (215) 840-6489 [protectingourwaters@gmail.com](mailto:protectingourwaters@gmail.com)

**EXPERTS EXPLAIN: GAS FRACKING IS A LOSER ALL AROUND**

**Bill McKibben and Deborah Rogers held Phone Press Conference Call with Iris Marie Bloom**

**Phone Conference** – Today organizers of the Shale Gas Outrage demonstration hosted a press conference call with Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org, Deborah Rogers, founder of the Energy Policy Forum, and Iris Marie Bloom, executive director of Protecting Our Waters, lead organizer of the September 20<sup>th</sup> event.

Bill McKibben is one of the featured speakers at the Shale Gas Outrage rally from noon until 2:00 on Thursday. Author and global climate change activist, McKibben connected the dots between shale gas extraction and climate change. Making up 97% of natural gas and one of the four major greenhouse gases, he pointed out that methane released into the atmosphere during and long after gas drilling factors significantly into the calculus of the terrifying new math of climate change.

"Of the many false solutions that have been proposed for fighting climate change, fracking for gas may top the list. It slows the transition to real clean energy, and pours methane into the atmosphere--a loser of a plan all around," said Bill McKibben.

Deborah Rogers, economist specializing in shale gas economics, participated in this call to discuss her work on the economics of shale gas development. An advisory council member for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, she has extensive knowledge of how economies work and has conducted independent research on shale gas. Rogers' careful analysis of shale gas companies' financial reports has raised serious concerns about the viability of shale gas production and has called into question the industry's claims about job creation and other claimed economic benefits of drilling.

"Significant overestimation of reserves has now been corroborated by a number of sources so it is almost certain that substantial monies have been borrowed on reserves that either do not exist or will never be commercially viable," said Deborah Rogers.

Iris Marie Bloom of Protecting Our Waters laid out how these expert findings support Shale Gas Outrage's goal to "Stop Fracking Now" through a statewide moratorium. As the lead organizer of Thursday's protest, she provided a preview of the rally, march, and interfaith Blessing of the Waters.

The phone press conference is part of the outreach efforts of the Shale Gas Outrage Steering Committee. The Steering Committee states, "Shale gas development contaminates our communities, harming human health and living ecosystems. It distracts us from taking the immediate steps essential to curb climate change. Building a thriving economy requires us to create green jobs, develop sustainable energy, and ensure a healthy environment. Therefore, we are committed to stopping fracking now, including maintaining and expanding each moratorium and ban already established. We are also committed to fighting for justice in place of the unacceptable and unequal burdens imposed by the shale gas industry upon vulnerable populations and future generations." To see a list of all endorsers: [www.shalegasoutrage.org](http://www.shalegasoutrage.org)

On Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, thousands will rally from noon to 2:00 pm to protest the industry's lobby group Marcellus Shale Coalition who will be meeting in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Expressing the energy of the growing movement against fracking, the crowd will then march the streets of Philadelphia from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. At 5:00 pm, "Blessing of the Waters", an interfaith event, will be held. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia will host a Health and Gas Drilling Conference 8:30 AM-noon; in the afternoon, Shale Gas Outrage will present the Freedom from Fracking Conference 1:30-5:30 PM, at the Friends Center in Philadelphia. **Detailed program information – see the Shale Gas Outrage website at [www.shalegasoutrage.org](http://www.shalegasoutrage.org)**

#### **About the experts:**

Bill McKibben is the author of a dozen books about the environment, beginning with *The End of Nature* in 1989, which is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He is a founder of the grassroots climate campaign 350.org, which has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries since 2009. Time Magazine called him 'the planet's best green journalist' and the Boston Globe said in 2010 that he was 'probably the country's most important environmentalist.' Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, he holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts and Maine, the State University of New York, and Whittier and Colgate Colleges. In 2011 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. To read his Rolling Stone piece, "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math", visit <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>. For more information on Mr. McKibben, visit <http://www.billmckibben.com/index.html>.

Deborah Rogers became involved in natural gas when she learned that an energy company planned 12 high impact wells next to her property, Deborah's Farmstead, a nationally recognized artisanal cheese-making dairy in Texas where they have been drilling for gas. Since 2009, Ms. Rogers has spoken publicly on economics and other the topics regarding shale gas drilling and is currently on a speaking tour throughout New York. Rogers has served on the Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas since 2008. She was appointed in 2011 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to a task force reviewing placement of air monitors in the Barnett Shale region in light of air quality concerns brought about by the natural gas operations in North Texas. She also joined a regional steering committee for the Oil and Gas Accountability Project (OGAP) in 2011 with responsibility for economic questions. For more information on Ms. Rogers and to read her many essays on shale gas, visit <http://energypolicyforum.com/>.

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