

Mapping Working Group  
of the Tompkins County Council of Governments Gas Drilling Task Force  
March 24, Meeting Notes

Present: Don Barber, Karen Edelstein, Art Pearce, Darby Kiley, Sharon Heller, Zack Patton

Zack presented the work from other sources that show the visual impacts of well pads on the landscape.

- One was part of George Frantz's Fall 2010 class project on Bradford County. The students presented photos of drilling rigs from distances ranging from 2 miles to 1000 feet. Because of the hilly terrain in northern PA, the rigs were not obvious from greater distances.
- Skytruth's President John Amos presented at the 2010 People's Oil and Gas Summit. The presentation includes aerial photos from gas drilling out west, plus the progress of gas development over the years.

[http://earthworksaction.org/2010summit/Panel5\\_JohnAmos\\_Skytruth.pdf](http://earthworksaction.org/2010summit/Panel5_JohnAmos_Skytruth.pdf)

Zack used Google Earth to find well pads, compressor stations, and water impoundments in Washington County, PA (southwestern corner). He easily located 30 sites in less than 15 minutes. Google Earth allows the user to look at historic aerial photos to show the pace of development.

For Tompkins County, Zack presented several views:

All of Tompkins County with well pads on a grid with 40 acre spacing or 640 acre spacing.

With the 640 acre spacing, he zoomed into a smaller section of the county (~10 square miles?) and superimposed well pad, water impoundment, and compressor station images from PA.

Sharon is learning how to use new software, Community Viz. She will look for images and demonstrate the software at the next meeting (we will need to gather around her desk).

In addition to having a presentation for municipal officials, Art recommended sharing this information with the business community, such as TCAD and the Chamber of Commerce.

Karen provided an update on her work with Fracktracker. They are working on what is going to be done with waste products, and LPG storage in brine wells.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Zack will contact Washington and/or Bradford County to get a sense of the ratio of wells drilled to compressor stations and water impoundments, and apply those ratios to Tompkins County.

A presentation could include the following:

- Skytruth's images from out west and PA;
- time sequence example from aerials of Washington County and quarterly "dots" from Bradford County (either or both of which could be applied to Tompkins County);
- Tompkins County level well pad spacing grid with either push pins or superimposed well pads;
- town level (or smaller scale) well pad spacing, compressor stations, water impoundments, roads, (gathering lines?);
- associated calculations for number of truck trips, amount of water, amount of gravel (well pads, roads). Art said he would work on these calculations.

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for April 28 at 1PM at the Tompkins County Planning Department (121 E Court Street).