



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Do You Live in a DEP Disposal Facility?

237 places in PA and 8 in NY are!

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is alerting the public that PA DEP has designated all of 84 municipalities in PA and one in NY as “disposal facilities” for toxic waste from oil and gas drilling. The DEP has made this designation on the basis of oil and gas drilling companies or their surrogates revealing that they are disposing of such waste in these municipalities. [This toxic and radioactive waste](#)¹ is deceptively called “brine.” In many areas the disposal is dumping on public roads—maybe in front of your house?—or your children's school?—or...

PA DEP reported in March that most oil gas drilling companies do not fulfill their reporting requirements² to say how much waste they generate and what happens to it. DEP says that 86% do not report at all, so [the 3.5 million gallons we know about](#)³ directly from the companies is a proverbial drop in the bucket. The list of 84 comes from PA DEP’s 2021 list⁴ with updates from the current PA DEP list⁵ (references below).

We at DCS have researched the postal designations within these townships (there are 237 in PA and 8 in NY) to better understand these locations. [Click here to find out if you are in a “disposal facility” zip code](#). See if where you or loved ones live is on this list.

B. Arrindell, DCS’ Director says, “Even if your zip code is not on the list, dumping could be happening near you. Also remember that liquids move and you could be at risk. We want to hear from you if your area is being dumped on.”

What does it mean to me if there is liquid drilling waste being dumped in my area?

- there are human health impacts from these materials⁶
- there are environmental health impacts⁶

AND

- this “disposal facility” designation sure can’t be good for home and land values.

DCS developed [this spreadsheet](#) and wants people and local concerned organizations to contact them: [DamascusCitizens <dcsc@DamascusCitizens.org>](mailto:DamascusCitizens@dcsc@DamascusCitizens.org) or 845-252-6677

They are working to stop this very destructive and illegal practice.

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¹ [Penn State Expert: ‘No More Research That Needs To Be Done’ To Justify A Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater](#) [4.17.24]. <https://tinyurl.com/34b3jhwd>

REFERENCES and more relevant information

link to the spreadsheet of places PA DEP has said are DISPOSAL FACILITIES:

<https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Municipalities-Designated-as-Disposal-Facilities-REV2.pdf>

1- Penn State scientist, Dr. Wm. Burgos Testimony

-- Senate Hearing: [Penn State Expert: 'No More Research That Needs To Be Done' To Justify A Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater](#) [4.17.24]. <https://tinyurl.com/34b3jhwd>

2- DEP Reported in March

-- DEP: [86% Of Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Did Not Comply With Waste Disposal, Production Reporting For 33,505 Wells In 2023](#) [3.29.24] <https://tinyurl.com/yw3ansb7>

3- Senate Hearing: [3.5 Million Gallons Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Dumped On PA Public Roads Since DEP's 'Moratorium' On Dumping Started 6 Years Ago](#) [4.17.24]

4- 2021 article listing 84 townships --

-- [DEP Lists 84 Townships As 'Waste Facilities' Where Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Has Been Disposed Of By Road Spreading; Municipalities Need To Do Their Due Diligence](#) [12.27.21]

5- **Current Waste updated list Facility Database** - DEP lists townships in its "[Oil and Gas Current Waste Facilities Listing](#)" as places where oil and gas wastewater was dumped - includes 1 in New York http://cedatareporting.pa.gov/Reportserver/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?/Public/DEP/OG/SSRS/OGRE_Waste_Facilities

6- Health and environmental impacts from Dr. Burgos testimony on April 17—and more

On April 17, a Penn State expert told the [Senate Democratic Policy Committee](#), "There's no more research that needs to be done" to justify adopting a state ban on the road dumping of conventional oil and gas wastewater.

Based on the independent research Penn State has done, Dr. Burgos came to this bottom line:

"Pennsylvania should ban road spreading of O&G PW." [Read more here](#). [PW stands for 'Produced water' actually oil and gas drilling wastewater]."

"There is no public benefit to road spreading O&G PWs [oil and gas wastewater].... It is all risk, no reward. The only beneficiaries are the O&G [oil and gas] operators who choose this disposal option." [Read more here](#) and [here](#).

"The ineffectiveness and potential pollution of wastewater spreading make the practice an unsuitable alternative for dust suppression on Pennsylvania roads." [Read more here](#) and [here](#)

Dr. Burgos noted DEP has already banned the road dumping of unconventional shale gas drilling wastewater for its environmental and health risks.

He said Penn State's research found: "The chemical characteristics of conventional and unconventional oil and gas-produced waters overlap considerably with respect to major constituents as well as [radioactive] radium activity. So there's not a whole lot of difference." [Read more here](#).

Penn State studies found the amounts of at least 25 of the chemicals they tested for exceeded environmental and health standards and radioactive radium exceeded industrial waste discharge standards. [Read more here](#).

Penn State also found from 2008 to 2014, “spreading O&G PW [oil and gas wastewater] on roads released over 4 times more radium to the environment than O&G [oil and gas] wastewater treatment facilities, and 200 times more radium than spill events.” [Read more here.](#)

Dr. Burgos pointed to several other contaminants of concern.

“The contaminants of concern include chloride with respect to freshwater salinization, and also impacts on infrastructure as far as corrosivity and other sorts of things.

“So chloride for stream health and [radioactive] radium and petroleum hydrocarbons primarily for human health.

“And of course there's, unfortunately, there's lead, arsenic and a couple other trace metals that might be of concern.

“But really from a risk-based standpoint, [radioactive] radium being a known carcinogen.

“And these petroleum hydrocarbons in produced waters that have elevated petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations, which might be visible to you and I as the oily sheen, these were the ones that had that direct human receptor cell-based response with respect to potentially causing toxicity, maybe even cancer.”

He also pointed out, oil and gas wastewater destabilizes dirt and gravel roads.

“Oil and gas produced waters destabilize roads. So what we saw is that they produce a tremendous amount of dust in the dust generation experiments.

“But we also did these rainfall runoff experiments, and we measured the solids, which we can think of as a proxy for aggregate or dollars of maintenance materials with respect to putting stuff back on your gravel road.”

“And these things led to a greater loss of solids from the roads during this heavy storm event that we used to simulate this stuff, compared to rainwater being spread onto the test cell at the beginning of the experiment.

“Because of these findings, oil and gas produced waters fail to meet the EPA's [US Environmental Protection Agency's] criteria for beneficial reuse of industrial waste.”

It is important to point out the conventional well owners have magnified the impact of their dumping by spreading it right before it rains and dumping it more and more on paved roads—the effect is to spread it even further. See Hydroquest testimony: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/n0l41wgi59d92fs4pwfjs/Hydroquest-Rubin-CMK-DRBC.pdf?rlkey=ruc9vxiuc8i8aa3cbanychqoy&dl=0>

More resource links--

- Illegal Wastewater [Dumping Continues, Even On Mothers Day, Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners' Campaign Of Intimidation Of Senate Witness; Now Dumping Before It Rains, On Paved Roads](#) [PaEN]

-- Senate Hearing: [The Case For An Immediate, Total Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater](#) [4.17.24]

-- Senate Hearing: [Penn State Expert: 'No More Research That Needs To Be Done' To Justify A Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater](#) [4.17.24]

-- Senate Hearing: [First-Hand Account Of Health, Environmental Impacts From Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater - 'Inhaling Oil & Gas Wastewater 24-Hours A Day'](#)[4.17.24]

-- Senate Hearing: [DEP Still Evaluating The Data On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater; Asks Public To Report Road Dumping](#) [4.17.24]