NEOGAP
Network for Oil & Gas Accountability and Protection
www.neogap.org

NEOGAP is organized to educate, empower, and advocate for the citizens of Ohio who are facing threats to health, safety, and property rights posed by oil and gas development.

Our website gives the tools and information you'll need to learn about drilling, educate your community, and make change. Features include:

Newsroom
Read current news articles – Full list of all stories—all in one place. Searchable by any word: Ohio, explosion, contamination, pipelines, etc.

Learn More
Water Testing, Leases, Campaign Contributions, Ag. Concerns, Compressor Stations, ODNR Databases, etc.

Video
General Info, Gas Well Problems, What You Can Do (includes Ohio Get FrACTive! video), Attorneys talk about difficulties suing big oil, Former regulatory officials speak out…

Resources
Handouts you can use include a downloadable Toolkit for taking LOCAL action on fracking!

Take Action
Learn what YOU can do to effect change and protect communities!

Background: In 2008, NEOGAP was organized as the Northeast Ohio Gas Accountability Project by concerned citizens from a number of communities in Northeast Ohio. The founding members came together to work to address the problems created by gas drilling operations in our neighborhoods from 2006 to the present.

Additionally, NEOGAP affiliated with OGAP, the Oil and Gas Accountability Project, a national organization that had been dealing with oil and gas drilling issues for sixteen years, mostly in western states. We also soon developed a partnership with MIT in putting together and testing an interactive landmen reporting website.

Since our founding, we have worked with aggrieved property owners, mayors, city councils, township trustees, fire departments, and many others in confronting numerous problems:

- Oil and gas drilling in densely populated urban and suburban areas.
• The loss of local authority, zoning, and over the locating of oil and gas wells, an authority that the State of Ohio claims it had revoked in 2004. (This assertion, we believe, is open to legal challenge.)

• Property owners whom we believe have been denied due process of law, resulting from the “mandatory pooling” provision in Ohio law, which has forced some landowners into drilling units against their will.

In 2009, working with members of the Ohio General Assembly, NEOGAP helped to write a comprehensive reform of Ohio Oil and Gas Drilling Law (ORC 1509). This comprehensive reform legislation was introduced into the Senate as SB 196 with the sponsorship of State Senator Tim Grendell (R), District 18 and in the House with the sponsorship of then Representative Mike Skindell (D), District 23.

Unfortunately, because of powerful oil and gas lobbying, SB 196 was buried in Committee, and an industry-sponsored bill, SB 165, was adopted as a purported “reform” law. In actuality, the new law made only a few improvements in Ohio’s Oil and Gas Law, leaving Ohioans still very exposed to many health and safety hazards posed by oil and gas drilling.

In 2010, NEOGAP became aware that Ohio was facing a new threat—unconventional oil and gas drilling in deep Marcellus and Utica shale using slick water, high volume, hydraulic fracturing. The practice has been occurring in Pennsylvania and West Virginia since about 2008, and those states were beginning to experience serious environmental adverse effects. It also became clear that Ohio was next on the list for this kind of oil/gas exploitation. We saw a tremendous increase in lease acquisition by such large shale exploiters as Chesapeake Energy.

Facing these increasing threats, NEOGAP decided to expand its operations statewide, and therefore, its name was changed. While the acronym NEOGAP remains the same, it now stands for the “Network for Oil & Gas Accountability and Protection.”

In 2011, we adopted new bylaws and elected a new Board of Trustees. NEOGAP is incorporated in the State of Ohio as a non-profit organization.

For more information, please contact Ron Prosek, Vice-President, NEOGAP
440-974-2035 - rprosek.neogap@earthlink.org
NEOGAP’s Recommendations

• **Become fully informed** about the problems with fracking. Learn about how the process operates, about how this kind of drilling is different from conventional drilling, about the adverse health effects of fracking, about the social and economic disruption fracking causes, about how powerful energy corporations are trampling on the rights of individuals and local communities, about how these corporations have bought their way into control over state and federal decisions affecting their industry. The best place to start this self-education process is by visiting www.neogap.org. Our website contains a wealth of information on fracking and includes links to many other useful websites.

• Once you have a good working knowledge about the problems with fracking, **start talking to your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances** about fracking. Direct them to: www.neogap.org to learn more. Be sure that they do not sign any oil or gas drilling leases without first looking seriously at the downsides.

• Then take it to the next level! **Join a local or county-wide anti-fracking group.** NEOGAP, the Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Alliance for People and the Environment, Food and Water Watch, and the Ohio Student Environmental Coalition are working together to help develop groups throughout the state. Contact Ron Prosek of NEOGAP to find out which group is nearest you. [ Ph. 440-974-2035 rprosek.neogap@earthlink.net ]

• **Local communities** – townships, villages, cities, and counties – with the backing of well-developed citizen anti-fracking groups, can **construct and adopt human rights- and community rights-based ordinances banning fracking in their communities.** When residents and local elected leaders in your community are ready to take this step, they will want to consult the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELFDF) for help. You can study their approach by visiting their website at: www.celdf.org. You can go to a virtual CELDF “Democracy School” on their website, and you can find out how to attend an actual Democracy School to receive invaluable training in working towards CELDF-type bans on fracking in your community.