



# EARTHWORKS JOURNAL

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Earthworks is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the impacts of irresponsible mineral and energy development while seeking sustainable solutions.

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**On the cover:** Susquehanna River, Asylum Township, Bradford County, as seen from Marie Antoinette Overlook along Route 6. Photo by Nicholas/Meander, courtesy of Wikipédia via Flickr.

# Message from the Executive Director



Photo by Ann Corbett

Dear friends,

2011 is shaping up to be a busy year for Earthworks and all of us who care about protecting communities and the environment from the destructive impacts of mining, drilling and digging.

The debate on America's energy future is raging on Capitol Hill, in statehouses and regulators' offices, and in our backyards. New science is exposing the climate change impacts of natural gas. It turns out that among the 300,000 of miles of transition pipelines, 1,400 compressor stations keeping the gas moving and connecting the 600,000 natural wells in the U.S., there are some leaks. As much 7.9% of natural gas escapes into the atmosphere.

Now, this would be a blip on the radar screen except for one dirty little fact; natural gas is considered to be friendlier to the global climate than coal. Over the last year a number of studies have measured the life-cycle emissions of natural gas and found that the climate picture is less than rosy. In January, the EPA found natural gas to be a 25% greenhouse gas improvement over coal. However, in April, a trio of researchers at Cornell University found that natural gas' climate impact may be even worse than coal.

In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, you would think that the U.S. would be taking a slower, more precautionary approach to nuclear development and mining. Not so. Earthworks has joined an enormous coalition to protect federal lands surrounding the Grand Canyon from uranium mining. We are campaigning to bring regulation of uranium out from the 1872 Mining Law and into the 21st century. Nothing could be more important for our energy future than phasing out dirty energy and ramping up energy efficiency and renewables.

Our mining program is facing an uphill battle in Congress, but a number of opportunities have emerged to leverage the Obama EPA. In this issue of *Earthworks Journal*, you will learn about our new, first-ever rules governing mercury emissions from hardrock mining, and the great strides the No Dirty Gold campaign is making lining up a quarter of the jewelry retail industry to fight for strong standards in responsible mining.

You can find our biggest news in 2011 online, where we have launched a new, revitalized website at <http://earthworksonline.org>.

For more frequent updates, and to join the conversation, you can find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/earthworksonline> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/earthworksrocks>.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Krill  
Executive Director



*Earthworks is proud to announce that we received an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and are listed as one of their Top-Rated environmental charities.*



*We also joined the Combined Federal Campaign, the nation's largest workplace giving program, which serves federal government employees. Earthworks' code on the CFC charity list is 41290.*

# News Briefs

**Welcome to new Earthworks affiliate ShaleTest!** Founded by Calvin Tillman and Tim Ruggiero, ShaleTest provides education and testing services to communities impacted by natural gas development. Earthworks and ShaleTest are collaborating to provide testing and health surveys in Pennsylvania (see page 7).

**Congratulations to Earthworks' Board Member Wilma Subra, who was honored with Global Exchange's Human Rights Award** in recognition of her work gathering scientific data that helps communities hold oil and gas companies accountable.

**Victory on mercury!** Regulations went into effect in February that create the first-ever federal limits for mercury air pollution from gold mining, reducing these highly toxic emissions by 75%.

**President Obama seeks to end mining industry taxpayer boondoggle:** A proposed new leasing system would change the way the mining industry operates on public land. Mining companies would pay a 1% reclamation fee on hardrock mineral production that would raise \$200 million per year for abandoned mine cleanup. The proposal would eliminate the current claim and patent system that amounts to an industry giveaway and replace it with a 5% royalty on new leases. It would also give the government more control over where mining occurs.

**SEC considers blood gold rules:** The Securities and Exchange Commission is writing rules mandated by the Frank-Dodd Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The Act requires mining, oil, and gas companies to report payments made to foreign governments; if they source minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo; and whether these minerals are conflict free.

**Studies question whether natural gas is a cleaner bridge fuel:** A study by Cornell University's Robert Howarth finds that, when "fugitive" emis-

sions from the fracking process and the whole life cycle of drilling are taken into account, natural gas production may not be cleaner than coal. A paper by David Hughes of the Post Carbon Institute states that increasing natural gas production to the levels needed to replace other fossil fuels would require more than \$700 billion in new infrastructure investment. He concludes that shale gas can only be profitable if the industry remains exempt from regulation and shifts the health and environmental costs to the public.

## Fracking news

- The Texas legislature passed a bill, watered down by industry, which requires companies to disclose chemicals used in fracking.
- Maryland failed to pass its disclosure bill, but the Governor announced a new state commission to study the safety of shale gas drilling.
- An Earthworks-sponsored California disclosure bill passed the state Assembly and is now before the Senate.
- The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act was reintroduced in both the U.S. House and Senate.
- The Bringing Reductions to Energy's Airborne Toxic Health Effects (BREATHE) ACT, which would close two oil and gas exemptions to the Clean Air Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives.
- A new Energy Department natural gas advisory panel will make recommendations to improve the safety of shale gas development this August.
- The EPA has started the first comprehensive "life-cycle" study of the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water resources.
- The EPA has begun enforcing a 2005 Congressional decision to prohibit the use of diesel fuel in fracking by requiring companies to get a Safe Drinking Water Act permit. Industry has filed a lawsuit to stop it.

# National People's Oil & Gas Summit a Big Success!



Photo by Ann Corbett

Summit participants listen to a panel presentation.

Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project held the National People's Oil & Gas Summit on November 19-20, 2010, in Pittsburgh, PA, bringing together more than 250 people from 26 states and Canada.

*"I have been attending similar meetings for close to 40 years... this powerful event was head and shoulders above any I have ever attended or spoken at."*

—Joe Heath, General Counsel, Onondaga Nation

The summit built bridges between communities in the Western U.S. that have been dealing with these issues for decades and those on the East Coast facing natural gas drilling for the first time. Featuring presentations from experts and leaders on natural gas development and how to protect communities and the environment from its impacts, the summit was a catalyst for the growing national movement for local and state reform.

Miss the summit? You can watch video of all the presentations on our You Tube channel: [www.youtube.com/earthworksaction](http://www.youtube.com/earthworksaction)

You can also download the summit agenda, presentations and materials at <http://earthworksaction.org/2010SummitAgenda.cfm>

# Stopping the Rollbacks

By Gwen Lachelt

Last November, pro-oil and gas governors and legislators were elected in several states, threatening common sense environmental regulations already on the books.

## Saving the pit rule in New Mexico (for now)

New Mexico has led the nation with precedent-setting protections safeguarding water, public health and landowner rights. These reforms protect communities and the environment from reckless drilling operations and toxic fracking fluids.

Since 2003, Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project and our New Mexico network have fought to achieve important reforms such as:

- the **Surface Owner's Protection Act**;
- the **Bad Actor Rule** that prevents companies with violations from obtaining new drilling permits;
- the **Surface Waste Management Rule**, which prohibits toxic wastes from disposal in landfarm facilities;
- the **Pit Rule**, which requires temporary pits to be lined, prevents pits or onsite burial of toxic wastes where groundwater is within 50 feet, among other protections. This regulation is the strongest in the country, addressing the problem of drilling and fracking wastes, water and soil contamination from unlined oil and gas waste pits and buried waste.

These regulations have served as models for other state and local governments. But New Mexico's new governor and the oil and gas industry have vowed to throw out these precedent-setting oil and gas reforms.

We need environmental protections now more than ever, when natural gas prices are low and operators are more likely to cut corners. However,

rather than ensuring that oil and gas is developed responsibly, industry is spending lots of money to roll back reasonable rules that were developed through a sound process.

Earlier this year, we fended off these industry-led efforts to kill oil and gas protections, including the Pit Rule. Our fact sheets about common sense regulation educated legislators and citizens about the risks to water quality if the rule was eliminated. Between our presence in the legislature every day and the calls and letters that legislators received from New Mexicans across the state, bills threatening to gut environmental safeguards did not pass.

But the fight isn't over. New Mexico's oil and gas rules may be challenged by administrative means later this year.

See our pit rule fact sheets at [newmexicocommonsense.org](http://newmexicocommonsense.org).

## Victory in Colorado

Tea Party representatives in Colorado made campaign promises during the last election season to return the state oil and gas commission to industry control. Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project fought hard to make the commission more diverse to represent citizens' interests, not just the interests of the oil and gas companies. After the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission adopted sweeping new oil and gas protections in 2008, the oil and gas industry decided to sue the state to challenge the new rules. In coalition with other conservation groups, we defended these rules against their claim that the rules were adopted without considering their economic impacts. As a result, the Colorado Oil and Gas Association voluntarily withdrew their suit in February, a huge victory!

# Fight Dirty Energy by Going Solar

## And support Earthworks at the same time!

Earthworks is partnering with Sungevity, a leading California solar company, to offer you an easy and affordable way to go solar. Sungevity's innovative solar lease is a new, ten-year, fully guaranteed, home solar solution to help you save money on your electricity bill from day one.

Sungevity is now operating in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York.



If you live in one of these states:

- Go to <http://sungevity.org/earthworks> to request a **free solar iQuote**. Within 48 hours, Sungevity's remote solar designers will send you an email with all the details of how much you could save and what your solar home lease would look like.
- Decide whether to enter a lease agreement or purchase a system. Sungevity puts solar panels on your house for free when you sign up to lease them.
- Pay Sungevity on a monthly basis for your home solar lease, usually the same or less than your pre-solar electric bill.
- Sungevity donates \$1,000 to Earthworks.
- Spread the word among your friends and colleagues.

By going solar, you can spare the atmosphere roughly 8.24 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year and stop using dirty energy like coal to power your home! It's a win-win-win situation: a win for you, a win for the environment, and a win for Earthworks!

Gain your energy independence by going solar. Get your iQuote at <http://sungevity.org/earthworks>!

# Recycle My Cell Phone and My MP3, My Camera, My Laptop...

By Lashonda Thigpen

Maybe you've already heard of Earthworks' Recycle My Cell Phone Program. You may have sent in an old phone or visited us at one of our recent collection drives. If so, thank you!

We have some exciting news to share: Earthworks is expanding the Recycle My Cell Phone program. We don't recycle just cell phones anymore: we now accept MP3 players and digital cameras.

Photo by Ann Corbett



*A Washington, D.C. resident drops off old cell phones. Earthworks participated in two collection drives for Earth Day, saving more than 350 cell phones from landfills and spreading the word about the Recycle My Cell Phone Program.*

And later this summer, we will be introducing a new online shipping system, where you'll be able to print out a shipping label to send your electronics for free directly to our recycler, Capstone Wireless. Once this system is operational, we will start to recycle laptop computers as well. Keep your eyes peeled

for announcements through our website, Facebook and Twitter.

Until then, if you have a cell phone you want to recycle, you can send it directly to us at our Washington, D.C. office.



## RECYCLE MY CELL PHONE

When you send your cell phone to Earthworks, you can rest assured that it will be recycled to the highest environmental standards. Because Earthworks only partners with E-steward recyclers, no electronic waste will end up in landfills or be sent overseas. This helps to keep our air and water free of the harmful toxics found in cell phones. If that weren't good news enough, the proceeds earned from recycled cell phones allow Earthworks to continue the work you're reading about right now!

Do you have questions or want to hold a cell phone recycling drive to benefit Earthworks or a community group of your own? Contact Lashonda, Recycle My Cell Phone Coordinator, at (202) 688-1331 or [lthigpen@earthworksaction.org](mailto:lthigpen@earthworksaction.org).

# You Say No to Uranium Mining in the Grand Canyon



Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration

The Grand Canyon, the crown jewel of our National Park system, is threatened by uranium mining. How did this happen? Because our laws governing mining on public lands date back to 1872 and lack any environmental standards. In fact, this law gives precedence to mining over all other uses of our public lands! More than recreation, conservation or anything else. That's just not right.

Two years ago, public outcry led the Department of the Interior to issue a moratorium on claim staking on the national forests that surround the Grand Canyon until this July.

Then this May, as the moratorium came closer to expiring, you told the Obama Administration that it must protect the sensitive ecosystems around the Grand Canyon. By taking action online and sending over 300,000 public comments to the Interior Department, you sent a clear message to the Administration, and they heard it loud and clear.

On June 20, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced a moratorium extension until December 2011. While we'll continue to push for permanent protection, the extension shows how important our collective voice is in protecting one of America's most treasured landscapes.

Thanks to all of you who took action! We'll keep you updated on this recent decision and future actions at: <http://earthblog.org>.

# Waltzing Across Texas

By Sharon Wilson

Texas has long been the capital of the U.S. oil and gas industry, but the natural gas boom has brought a new wave of drilling to the state. Thousands of new drilling rigs and production facilities puncture the landscape of the Fort Worth region, known as the Barnett Shale.

Back in 2006, I started noticing alarming things happening to the countryside near my property in Wise County, Texas – a smelly pit here, a smoking rig there, and leaky pipes and hoses that ended up in flowing creeks. I wrote letters to the paper, talked to neighbors and started my own blog, *Bluedaze: Drilling Reform for Texas*.

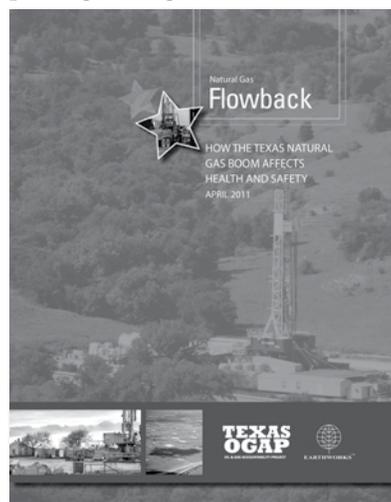
I helped launch the Texas Oil & Gas Accountability Project in 2008 and joined Earthworks as an organizer last year. I've collected stories of the havoc that drilling and fracking are wreaking on the health and safety of the people of North Texas. I developed four of these stories into case studies which I presented to the EPA in North Carolina and then in Washington, D.C.

This April, I launched Earthworks' report, *Flowback: How the Texas Natural Gas Boom Affects Health and Safety*, at a press conference at the Texas Capitol in Austin. It gives voice to the communities on the front lines of this public health crisis and pulls together for the first time detailed results of air and water testing and the health effects data linking residents' symptoms to toxic chemicals used in drilling and fracking. *Flowback* also criticizes the inadequacy of policies and the response of authorities, lifting the veil of denial that hangs over the Texas gas patch.

I've also been tracking bills before Texas' legislature. SB 875 would have removed Texans' only defense

against industry, the nuisance law, but was amended due to citizen pressure. The just-passed HB 3328 is touted as a chemical disclosure bill that would set a national standard, but it is all bark and no bite after being watered down by industry.

Citizens are beginning to have an impact at the local level: the town of Bartonville passed a drilling moratorium in March and the Dallas City Council appointed a commission to study how to regulate natural gas drilling in the city rather than approving drilling without review.



I spend each day trying to balance the constant emails and calls from media, victims, and colleagues with the demands of being the single mother to a teenage son. I've lost track of the number of public hearings I've attended to testify on behalf of Barnett Shale victims. The requests for help from the Eagle Ford Shale area only keep increasing. I am beginning a speaking tour in June that starts at the very southern tip in Laredo and ends 340 miles away in College Station.

Call me crazy but my fervent desire is to see justice for Texans. If we can bring strong regulations and enforcement to Texas, we can do it anywhere.

# Shale Stand

## Citizens Slowing the Eastern Gas Rush

By Nadia Steinzor

The gas industry representative on the panel spoke of riches to come, honest corporations, and pollution-free communities. As I waited to speak, I contemplated how best to refute this rosy fiction with gloomy fact. Then someone in the crowd laughed, the spell was broken, and it struck me: the industry thinks that people in one place (in this case, eastern Ohio) aren't paying attention to what's happening elsewhere (such as across the border in Pennsylvania).

But they're sorely mistaken. Investigative reporting, websites, listservs, lectures, community meetings, scientific studies, Tweets, Facebook, and more are informing a rapidly growing movement of concerned citizens. People are asking questions, demanding answers, sharing what they've learned, and organizing. They're speaking out on campuses, town board meetings, state capitols, and on the streets.

The harsh realities faced by families and communities impacted by natural gas development and modern-day hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") are fueling this movement. At Earthworks, we've long told the stories of contaminated water wells, sick children and livestock, and ruined property in the West. Now the same problems are being repeated in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Across the Marcellus Shale region, land leasing is proceeding rapidly. The 2010 elections brought more pro-drilling legislators to state houses and two governors, John Kasich in Ohio and Tom Corbett in Pennsylvania, who have vowed to make life easy for the gas industry that helped finance their campaigns. Now we must not only advance stronger protections, but also defend the laws and regulations already on the books.

Yet even with such hurdles, we are building a strong movement for change. In New York, a delay on permitting for high-volume horizontal drilling remains in place as an environmental review is completed and efforts build to pass protective legislation. The Delaware River Basin Commission has received thousands of letters and comments on draft gas regulations. Doz-

**continued on page 9**

# Losing Water, Losing Dreams

## One Family's Story of What's Going Wrong

By Nadia Steinzor

Jared McMicken was born and raised in northeastern Pennsylvania and never imagined living anywhere else. He and his wife Heather purchased land in 2002 and built their dream home. But Bradford County has become the epicenter of Marcellus Shale gas development and the McMickens are thinking of packing up and moving their two children not just out of the county, but out of the state. "Pennsylvania is the guinea pig for the shale gas drilling experiment," says Jared.

This isn't an idle observation. The McMickens leased their property to Chesapeake Energy in 2003 and watched as wells were built nearby and truck traffic increased. Several weeks after well bores were drilled, the McMickens' tap water started running dark brown and their well began to bubble.

Chesapeake insisted they hadn't done anything wrong and the water would clear up on its own in a few days. Two neighboring families developed the same problem. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) tests showed high methane levels in both the water wells and their houses. Methane meters were installed; the alarm at the McMickens went off the very first night.

The McMickens and their neighbors left to stay with family or in motels. After several weeks of negotiations, Chesapeake agreed to install methane mitigation systems in all three houses. Eventually, the company agreed to deliver potable water and, later on, installed purification systems.

Jared and his friends studied DEP maps showing that the gas well bores had been drilled horizontally—straight under their houses. In an area of porous geology, the drilling had apparently released methane into the shallow aquifer.

"It's taken so much effort to deal with Chesapeake and the DEP," says Jared. "The uncertainty wears on you—will we get help? What if the kids get sick? Who's going to pay for the systems down the line?"

The McMickens and their neighbors hired a lawyer to force Chesapeake to provide a new source of fresh water for their houses, as well as compensation for their costs, such as soaring electric bills. Dozens of other cases of methane and chemical migration from drilling have surfaced across the state and the nation. Dimock residents still seek a permanent solution to water contami-



The McMickens tell their story to the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6qWR8bjNS8>

nation despite a lawsuit and DEP intervention.

The McMickens would accept an offer from Chesapeake to buy them out at the pre-drilling assessment of their property of \$250,000—but not at its current worth, which has shrunk to \$35,000.

Nearby, gas wells may soon be hydraulically fractured using toxic chemicals—unregulated because of oil and gas industry exemptions to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The McMickens now need comprehensive, independent testing of their water in case the drillers cause, and later try to deny, additional contamination. But like families across the country, they'll keep doing whatever they can to hold gas companies accountable, and to get their dreams back.

ENERGY

## You Can Help Protect the Health of Pennsylvania Families

Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project and ShaleTest are teaming up to provide air and water quality testing and conduct health surveys to bring attention to the plight of Pennsylvania residents like the McMickens. With your support, we can start testing this summer in three communities in western Pennsylvania.

We've done similar studies before. Our Pavillion, Wyoming, research led to an

EPA investigation of the sources of water and air contamination. Following our health surveys in Dish, Texas, state authorities tested residents' blood and urine and instituted a mandatory 12-hour response for odor complaints. Our report *Flowback* is sparking public debate about the human costs of drilling in Texas' Barnett Shale.

The data we collect will show how air and water contamination are affecting

residents' health in drilling communities. Families like the McMickens will better understand the risks they face. Community groups can use this evidence to hold gas companies accountable and push for better laws and regulations.

Donate today so that we can provide this valuable service to affected communities in Pennsylvania. Send your check in the enclosed envelope or give online at [donate.earthworksaction.org](http://donate.earthworksaction.org).

# Politics As Usual?

By Lauren Pagel

Clean air and water, good health, strong communities - these are things that most of us place a high value on, but often take for granted.

After each election, things shift here in Washington, D.C. Members of Congress come and go, but most of us hope that the core values needed to protect our air, water, land and health remain. Unfortunately, in the first few months of the 112th Congress, the House of Representatives consistently worked to undermine these core values at every turn.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the "continuing resolution"—appropriations legislation used by Congress to fund government agencies if a formal appropriations bill has not been signed into law. As part of one continuing resolution measure (also known as the CR), the House of Representatives passed amendments that threaten public health and the environment and attempted to defund important programs valued by communities across this country.

The CR passed by the House of Representatives in February prohibited the EPA from regulating harmful greenhouse gas emissions and protecting waters under the Clean Water Act. It also repealed a provision in the Clean Water Act that gives the EPA the authority to veto permits that would have an unacceptable adverse effect on our water, fish or wildlife. Thankfully, the final CR didn't contain these harmful provisions, but another budget fight looms this fall.

We are in tough economic times, and it is unfortunate that some in Congress have embraced the false choice that pits protecting our communities and water resources against strengthening our economy

and creating jobs. I am hopeful that both the Senate and the Obama administration will look past this rhetoric and advocate for real changes that will create jobs and move us toward cleaner air, water and more renewable energy.

When it comes to energy and mining, we can increase our use of clean energy sources, continue protecting our water and air and create jobs - all at the same time. All that is needed is a political will to look beyond corporate profits toward sensible long-term solutions. Earthworks and our partners are working towards these solutions, regardless of which way the political winds blow.

All sides of the political spectrum are coalescing around the desire to save taxpayer money while protecting communities by ending the billions of dollars in subsidies received by the oil and gas industry. According to Taxpayers for Common Sense, we will be footing the bill for \$78 billion in oil and gas subsidies over the next 5 years - \$78 billion dollars that could help balance our budget or help struggling families during this difficult economic time. Multi-national fossil fuel corporations do not need taxpayer handouts - the five largest oil companies made \$36 billion in profits in the first quarter of 2011.

By signing up for Earthworks action list, you can be part of the solution that moves us towards a safer, cleaner and greener America. You will be kept apprised of legislative and regulatory changes that could impact your community and our environment. Decision-makers in Washington, D.C. and in your state capitol need to hear that conservation and a strong economy can go hand in hand, and we don't have to choose one over the other, ever.

## Global Gold Fever

Historic high gold prices have led to a worldwide outbreak of gold fever. One ounce of gold is now selling for a record high of more than \$1,500. Mining companies are scrambling to open new mines wherever they can, even in places where they were previously turned away. Earthworks' partners are facing such proposals around the world. For example:

- Canadian company Gabriel Resources wants to mine in Romania's Rosia Montana, a region covered with important archeological sites, despite strong community opposition.
- The U.S. mining company Newmont Mining is moving forward with plans to mine gold in the Akyem forest reserve in Ghana.
- Newmont has also re-opened its previously dropped claim to Cerro Quilish mountain near Cajamarca in Peru, which holds spiritual significance for the communities in the area and is an important water resource.



## Costa Rica's Sustainable Path

In recent months, Costa Rica's courts and government have taken steps to permanently protect its diverse ecosystems and people from mining impacts.

Infinito Gold of Canada sought to develop an open-pit mine in northern Costa Rica that would have destroyed more than 500 acres of tropical forest in a Biosphere Reserve and threatened the San Juan River, a river shared with Nicaragua, with contamination. They were not deterred by several successful community pressure campaigns, which culminated in a march from the capital, San José, to the mine site, and a hunger strike. A San José court finally annulled Infinito Gold's contract in November 2010.

The Costa Rican government then passed a groundbreaking mining law that protects communities and the environment from mining impacts. The law restricts metals mining to small-scale mining cooperatives and to underground mining that does not use cyanide to extract metals. This reform represents a novel approach to mining policy for Costa Rica and could serve as an example for many other countries.

# Because of You, Target Says No to Dirty Gold

By Payal Sampat

With the help of Change.org and supporters like you, the No Dirty Gold Campaign achieved a major victory in March. The country's third-largest retail chain, Target Corporation, signed on to the Golden Rules for more responsible metals mining! Target sent a clear message to its suppliers and customers that it does not want anything to do with dirty gold.

How did this happen? Because you took action!

Earthworks and Change.org partnered to get more letters to Target than ever before. More than 22,000 people sent the company letters and overloaded their Facebook page with comments. It worked. Thanks to you, we did it.

By signing the Golden Rules, Target has committed to ensure that the gold it sells does not come at the expense of communities and the environment. The company has agreed to audit its current supply, to inform its suppliers

of Target's sourcing intent, to increase recycled content, and to seek independent verification of responsibility.

Target is one of the top 10 U.S. retailers of jewelry, and its support could provide a huge boost in the effort to clean up irresponsible gold mining. More than 70 other jewelry retailers with combined sales of more than \$13.5 billion—nearly a quarter of the U.S. market—have signed on to the campaign so far.

*"Target is proud to be part of the No Dirty Gold campaign,"*

—Tim Mantel, president, Target Sourcing Services

This victory demonstrates once again that the demand for more responsible sourcing of precious metals can't be ignored. Consumers are asking questions about the source of their wedding rings



Change.org celebrates after more than 22,000 supporters convince Target to sell only ethically-sourced gold.

and cell phones – could these products have helped fuel armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or polluted drinking water in Peru? Retailers like Target know that to gain the trust of consumers, they must set high standards for responsibility and meet them.

## Will Costco Be the Next to Sign On to the Golden Rules?

More than 40,000 people have already taken action through Earthworks, Change.org and Care2's websites and flooded Costco's Facebook page with comments. Costco now says that it will take a step forward by sharing responsible sourcing guidelines with their suppliers, but has not yet agreed to sign on to the Golden Rules.

For the latest updates and to find out how you can get involved, join No Dirty Gold on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nodirtygold](http://www.facebook.com/nodirtygold).



Amanda Kloer: *Please join the No Dirty Gold campaign today!*  
 Jenna Lowenstein: *Stop selling dirty gold – you're better than this!*  
 Carol Scott: *Costco, please save lives: No Dirty Gold.*  
 Jessica Leber: *Stop selling dirty gold! Get with the program.*  
 Alex DiBranco: *No Dirty Gold! Time to support the Golden Rules and responsibly source your gold.*

**Shale Stand, continued from page 6**  
 ens of municipalities, from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia and from Buffalo to Westchester, have adopted resolutions saying no to fracking, while lawyers and local groups are developing ordinances to protect air, water, roads, and residences from gas drilling and infrastructure. And new research emerging from Cornell University is busting the myth of "clean" natural gas and detailing how the boom many policymakers eagerly embrace could quickly become an economic bust.

The arrival of industrial-scale gas extraction in a region with a large population, dense development, and a history of political organizing is now converging with growing concern over water and air quality, climate change, and loss of open space. If there's a way to create a different energy future, citizens in shale gas country are eager and ready to find it.

# Bristol Bay Campaign Builds Momentum

By Bonnie Gestring

Fishing season will soon begin in Bristol Bay, as tens of millions of sockeye salmon prepare to swim upstream to spawn in the headwaters of Bristol Bay – home to the world’s largest wild salmon fishery. Its rivers and tributaries have just been named by American Rivers as one of America’s most endangered. The proposed Pebble gold and copper mine would create the country’s largest open pit mine out of this fragile ecosystem, degrading waters and generating billions of tons of mine waste.

My journey to protect the salmon, its unique habitat and the people whose livelihoods depend on it, took me to London just before the royal wedding in April. I attended Anglo American’s board meeting to educate their shareholders about this controversial project and raise tough questions about the company’s involvement in the mining partnership. I travelled with Alaska native leaders and commercial fishermen, delivering a unified and strong message to the company’s shareholders. We outlined the overwhelming local opposition to the project, which opinion polls put at 80%, and urged the company to honor its promise that it wouldn’t move forward with the project

without local support.

“We’ve come to London to let Anglo American’s leadership and shareholders know that the Pebble Project is a dead end,” said Kimberly Williams, executive director of Nunamta Aulukestai, an association of nine native village corporations.

“This project will jeopardize the fishery that supplies 50% of the world’s commercial supply of sockeye salmon,” said Bob Waldrop, director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, which represents over 2,000 commercial fishermen. “The fishermen are putting their full weight against this project.”

Over the past six months, our campaign has really raised the profile of Bristol Bay and the Pebble Mine in the U.K. Last November, we met company officials in London and hosted a press conference on posh Bond Street to announce that over 50 jewelers have signed a pledge vowing not to buy gold from the proposed mine. The trip triggered major stories in the London Times and BBC world news, which airs on over 100 stations around the world. We thanked jewelers lending their support

– including Boucheron, a high-end jeweler that supplies jewels to the British Crown – with packages of smoked salmon.

More than fifty jewelers, with more \$5.75 billion in annual sales have signed onto the Bristol Bay Protection Pledge, refusing to buy gold from the Pebble Mine. One of the latest is Livia Firth, Creative Partner at Eco-Age and wife of Best Actor Oscar winner Colin Firth.

We’re thrilled to have her support for our efforts to protect Bristol Bay, and hope that her support will inspire more jewelers to get on board.

As a result of our visit, Member of Parliament Martin Horwood submitted a parliamentary petition called an early day motion cosponsored by MPs from the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Green parties that expressed concern about Anglo American’s involvement in Pebble Mine when the vast majority of Bristol Bay residents, including indigenous peoples, opposes it.

Back in the States, we’ve also had welcome news! In December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced

**continued on page 11**

MINING

## Why I Signed the Bristol Bay Pledge



Livia Firth, Creative Partner at Eco-Age

*“As a supporter of a jewelry industry that supports environmental and social justice I am happy to support the Bristol Bay Protection Pledge. The environment is under huge strain. Never have our personal consumer decisions mattered more. Meanwhile industries can make it easy for us to do the right thing by taking responsibility for their supply chains.” —Livia Firth*



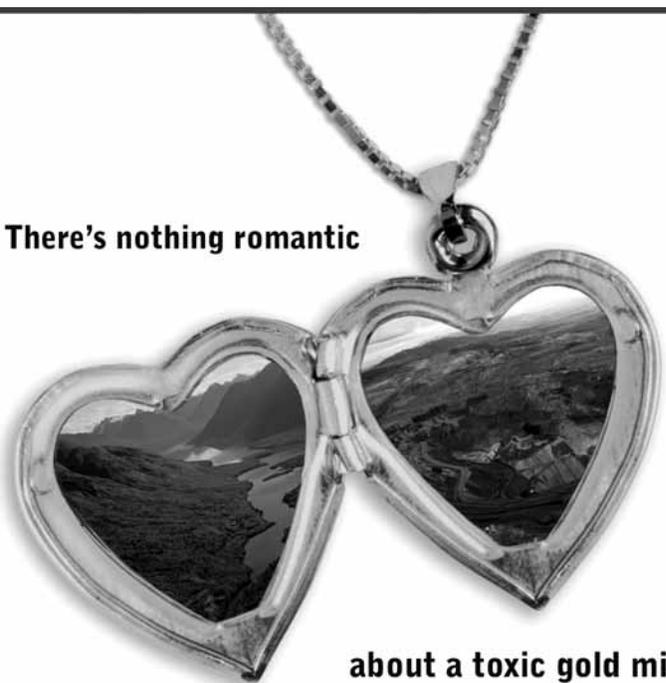
Toby Pomeroy, Artisan Jeweler

*“Bristol Bay is a treasure, a jewel in our safekeeping. As we would never think of gambling with our children’s well-being, it is also our responsibility to never let risk or harm befall this rare and beautiful natural treasure.” —Toby Pomeroy*

**If you’re a jeweler and would like to sign the pledge, please contact [pledge@protectbristolbay.org](mailto:pledge@protectbristolbay.org)**

**To see more jeweler statements and photos, go to: <http://ourbristolbay.com/pledge-statement.html>**

**There's nothing romantic**



**about a toxic gold mine.**

**This Valentine's day, join Alaska Natives and commercial fishermen in urging the EPA to protect Bristol Bay—the world's most valuable wild salmon fishery.**

Alaska's Bristol Bay supports the world's largest remaining wild salmon fishery — feeding millions around the world, and supplying thousands of jobs to hard-working fishermen. The fishery is at risk from a proposed gold and copper mine — the Pebble Mine — that would generate up to 10 billion tons of toxic mine waste. No wonder 80% of Bristol Bay residents are against it. And, no wonder 50 leading jewelers have pledged not to buy gold from the proposed Pebble Mine. Join us in urging the EPA to initiate the Clean Water Act's 404(c) process to protect our fishery, our lives and livelihoods. [www.ourbristolbay.com](http://www.ourbristolbay.com)

Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association | Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association | Nunamta Autakestai

**PLEASE EPA—LET'S PROTECT BRISTOL BAY.**

**Bristol Bay, continued from page 10** nounced a scientific review of the suitability of large-scale development in Bristol Bay in response to petitions from Alaska Native Tribes and commercial fishermen asking for them to restrict the disposal of mine waste into streams, rivers or wetlands in Bristol Bay.

With your help, we are working to make sure that the EPA will take the next step: initiate a 404c veto process through the Clean Water Act, which allows the EPA to deny permission to discharge waste if the agency determines it will have unacceptable adverse effects on water supplies, wildlife, fisheries or recreational areas.

On Valentine's Day, we urged the EPA to start the process through

petitions, valentine postcards and ads in Washington, D.C.'s Roll Call and Politico. In March, a delegation of Alaskans came to Washington, D.C. to urge EPA action, and in April a group of more than 30 investor organizations holding millions of shares in Anglo American, led by Trillium Asset Management, expressed their concerns about the project's risks and asked the EPA to investigate.

The campaign is really building momentum. Thanks to the more than 14,000 of you who've signed our petition to the EPA through Care2 so far! You can keep up with the latest news through [ourbristolbay.com](http://ourbristolbay.com) and the Our Bristol Bay Facebook page.

# Montana Rejects Cyanide—Again

By Bonnie Gestring

On Wednesday, April 13th, Governor Brian Schweitzer took out his veto branding iron, and publicly burned a veto into SB 306 – the bill to overturn Montana's ban on open pit cyanide leach mining. The Montana Mining Association backed the bill, which would have opened the door for new open pit mines to be constructed in the headwaters of Montana's famous Rock Creek and the Blackfoot Rivers. Mining companies use cyanide to extract minerals from ore because it is efficient, making lower-quality ore more profitable. However, cyanide leach mining generates tons of waste and toxic chemicals.



Photo by Mark Aagenes

MINING

Governor Schweitzer vetoed the cyanide mining bill with a hot branding iron in front of the Montana Capitol on April 13, 2011.

The Governor's decision clearly upholds the will of Montana voters, who voted twice to ban this destructive type of mining in 1998 and 2004. Every major cyanide leach mine in the state has caused severe water pollution – contaminating important drinking water supplies, trout streams, and agricultural lands and leaving taxpayers with tens of millions of dollars in clean up costs.

Earthworks collaborated with affected ranchers to make sure their voices were heard in legislative hearings and in the media. And, when the legislature passed the bill, we made sure the Governor heard the message loud and clear that the people of Montana wanted to keep the cyanide ban. Many thanks to all of you who contacted the Governor to urge him to veto the bill. Despite a big push by industry at the 2011 legislative session, the "will of the people" prevailed, and Montana's waters are the better for it!

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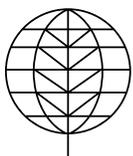
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