

January 16, 2020

Rachel Levine, MD
PA Department of Health
625 Forster Street, 8th Floor West
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Dr. Levine,

On November 22, Governor Wolf announced that he was directing the Department of Health to conduct studies on health impacts related to shale gas development, including one study that would investigate the link between fracking and the spike in rare cancers diagnosed in young people. While we appreciate that the administration is taking this first important step toward protecting public health, the administration has not yet provided additional detail on the goals or design of the studies, nor has it indicated what other actions it will take to address the public's concern that children and other community members will continue to be exposed to carcinogens and other health-impacting substances while the three-year studies are being conducted.

As you know, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project have requested a meeting with you regarding these issues. We trust that you will meet with these organizations to address concerns regarding the studies.

We also believe it is critical that you ensure the process is a transparent one that engages the public. To that end, we are calling on you to participate in a town hall meeting in affected communities that the undersigned organizations will coordinate and facilitate. Unlike previous meetings sponsored by the administration, a town hall would help members of affected communities to better understand the investigative process while learning ways to protect themselves and their families while the investigations are ongoing. We will follow up with your office to discuss what such a public meeting would entail and when it could take place.

Sincerely,

Better Path Coalition
Center for Coalfield Justice
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Food & Water Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project