Marcellus Shale Listening Project

Frostburg State University
Folklore in Appalachia in partnership with Savage River Watershed Association.
Frostburg, MD
Tapping the Gas

Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing have made it feasible to extract huge amounts of natural gas trapped in shale formations. Here’s how they work.

- A rig drills down into the gas-bearing rock, which can be 7,000 feet or more below the surface. The well is lined with steel pipe.
- The well is sealed with cement to a depth of 1,000 feet or more to prevent fluids or gas from seeping into the groundwater.
- Using a steerable motor or other means, operators extend the well horizontally 1,000 feet or more into the gas-bearing rock.
- A pumper truck injects a mix of sand, water and chemicals into the well.
- Tanker trucks deliver water for the fracturing process.
- Recovered water is stored in open pits, then taken to a treatment plant.
- Natural gas flows out of the well.
- Natural gas is trucked to a pipeline for delivery.

![Diagram of the gas extraction process]

**Sources:** Chesapeake Energy; Al Grantberg; WSJ research
Hydraulic Fracturing

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracing," involves the injection of more than a million gallons of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure down and across into horizontally drilled wells as far as 10,000 feet below the surface. The pressurized mixture causes the rock layer, in this case the Marcellus Shale, to crack. These fissures are held open by the sand particles so that natural gas from the shale can flow up the well.
Public Library Community Listening Sessions

Frostburg Neighborhood Approach
Project Timeline Fall 2014

September
- Folklore in Appalachia at FSU Fall 2014
- Develop interview questions
- Make display board about the project
- Set up at the film screening of "The Triple Divide"
- Appalachian Festival
- Meet with Ann from Savage River Watershed Association

October
- Start door to door interviews
- Further develop interview questions
- Develop consent forms
- Divide into groups for interviews
- Conduct interviews and set up at Frostburg Arts walk
- Set up and conduct interviews at George's Creek Library

November
- Set up and conduct interviews at Westernport Library
- Set up and conduct interviews at Grantsville Library

December
- Gov. Martin O'Malley ends moratorium on fracking in MD
- Set up and conduct interviews at Oakland Library
- ARC Conference
THANK YOU:

Savage River Watershed Association

Appalachian Regional Commission

East Tennessee State University