

How many wells in Cove Overlook Vista?



Benefits of Natural Gas to Western Maryland

- The United States needs home grown energy and huge reserves are available in Western Maryland.
- The impact of utilizing the natural gas reserves found in the Marcellus and Utica shale in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties will have a major impact on growing the Western Maryland community into an economically sustainable region. The Marcellus gas reserves in Garrett County alone may be worth \$32 billion dollars.
- The benefits of tapping the Marcellus and Utica natural gas reserves outweigh the manageable potential of adverse environmental impact.
- Natural Gas drilling has safely occurred in Western Maryland for more than 7 decades. Garrett County has had wells that were fracked as early as the 1950s and as recently as 2009 without any adverse result.
- The natural gas storage system located in and around Accident Maryland is an important component to the energy network in the United States. The Garrett County reserve system contains enough natural gas to supply our nation's natural gas needs for one entire day.
- Garrett County is literally a peninsula surrounded by drilling in neighboring states. Trucks regularly carry fracking fluid and supplies through Maryland. We have nearly the same potential environmental impact from wells in the surrounding states as if they were in Maryland. However we gain none of the benefit to manage the resource and realize the full economic value to our communities.
- Owners of land in Western Maryland deserve the right to safely develop the natural resources on their private property. Safe development of the regions natural gas reserves will have positive impact at a grass roots level in our communities. Just as timber and coal resource development provided the catalyst for life in the mountains of Maryland for our ancestors, the development of natural gas with today's technological advancements can produce the economic vitality needed for population growth to allow our communities to maintain schools, expand the opportunity for business to create jobs and improve the quality of life for all western Maryland residents.
- We acknowledge that we do have regulatory work to do and support the creation of rules and regulations that facilitate "best practices" in the development of this resource. We have a community of concerned property owners, excellent engineers, state environmental regulators, federal regulators, and we feel confident that Maryland can provide leadership in the best way to manage the development of natural gas.
- It is important to rely upon the facts and verified scientific results to put the potential negative environmental risks in proper perspective.
 - Of the thousands of wells drilled and fracked over that last sixty years there is not one verifiable case where fracking fluid was proven to contaminate well drinking water. A 2004 study by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids into CBM wells posed minimal threat to underground drinking water sources. The vertical elevation of more than 1.3 miles between a Marcellus well depth (8000'+) to the typical depth for a drinking water well (100-1000') is an important distinction as it relates to assessing risk.
 - Methane gas naturally exists in many water wells and has for hundreds of years. *What are the health effects of Methane Gas? Since it evaporates out of water, methane is not usually considered to present a health threat in drinking water. However, methane gas can become harmful if it escapes from water and builds up in poorly ventilated or confined areas.*
 - Just as in negotiating the sale of real estate, land owners may need help in meeting the responsibility to negotiate the best lease contract. It is important to understand the lease rate whether \$5 an acre (historically a typical rate for 5000 foot depth drilling rights) or \$3000 per acre (as has been experienced for infinite depth Utica shale drilling depth) only allows the option to the lease holder to drill. The most important part of any lease is the royalty and terms of the access if drilling occurs. Royalty will likely make up more than 99% of the payment to land owners.