



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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What: Protect PT asks attorney general to investigate PA DEP's lack of enforcement of state laws.

On Jan. 17, 2019, Protect PT wrote a letter to Attorney General Josh Shapiro asking that his office investigate the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's issuance of new permits to oil and gas developers who have unresolved violations. These documented violations include discharge of industrial waters into waters of the Commonwealth, erosion and sedimentation control failures and incidents causing or threatening pollution. Protect PT has addressed these concerns with the department on several occasions.

Now, Protect PT is asking for citizens to get involved by sending letters to Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to request that they investigate these matters and protect citizens' rights. These letters can be sent through Protect PT's action network page. Please visit www.protectpt.org/agpadep-letter.

"The DEP has failed to protect our rights to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the environment," Protect PT Executive Director Gillian Graber said. "As a state institution, the DEP is charged with upholding laws established to protect our rights and the environment. The department's decision to prioritize corporations over human health and the environment breaches the department's duty to protect citizens and the environment."

Additionally, Protect PT asked the attorney general to investigate the actions of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and to bring an enforcement suit against Apex Energy (PA), LLC, for violating the Clean Streams Laws for over two years.

"When we combine our voices to demand change, we can make a difference," Graber said. "We want the attorney general to know that we care about our rights, our health, our environment, and we deserve better than what we are getting."

About Protect PT: *Protect Penn-Trafford is a citizen's group working to ensure the safety, security, and quality of life from the effects of unconventional gas development in Penn-Trafford and surrounding communities in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties.*