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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 11, 2019

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**What: Westmoreland County Groups hold a public meeting on the failure at the Shaw Well at Beaver Run Reservoir**

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Protect PT will partner with Westmoreland Marcellus Citizens Group and Mountain Watershed Association to hold a public meeting at the **Delmont Volunteer Firehall at 6:30 p.m.** to inform the public about the well failure at the Shaw 1GHSU Well on the Beaver Run Reservoir, which is the public water source for 39 municipalities and 130,000 customers in Westmoreland, Armstrong, and Indiana Counties.

On Feb. 3, the Post Gazette reported that CNX Gas CO. LLC had lost pressure at a fracked gas well at the Beaver Run Reservoir, owned by Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) and had called in a remediation team from out of state. While the paper reported the incident occurred Jan. 26, the public was not aware until they read it in the paper, over a week after the incident began. The paper reported that there was communication between the Utica borehole and shallow wells around the site. At the time of the first article, it was reported that CNX was flaring 4 shallow gas wells. By the time the well was “killed”, they had reached 9 flared wells. The public was not made aware of possible pollution in the air from flaring or potential dangers to private and public water sources.

*“The community and consumers of this water source deserve to be fully informed about the recent incident and how it could impact their lives”,* said Gillian Graber, Executive Director of Protect PT.

Officials from PA DEP and Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, as well as representatives from CNX, will be invited to attend the meeting and address the public. Dr. John Stolz, the Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Education at Duquesne University has agreed to attend the meeting.

*“We would like to discuss the risks that current and future gas development near the reservoir poses for the thousands who rely on this water source,”* said Ashley Funk, Community Organizer from Mountain Watershed Association.

# Protect PT

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**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. Learn more at [protectpt.org](http://protectpt.org).*

**About Mountain Watershed Association:** *Mountain Watershed Association, home of the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, works to protect, preserve, and restore the Indian Creek and greater Youghiogheny River Watersheds through grassroots organizing, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground restoration projects. Learn more at [mtwatershed.com](http://mtwatershed.com).*