



For Immediate Release

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"We've got, I think, broad agreement that we've got terrific natural gas resources in this country. Are we doing everything we can to develop those?"

--President Barack Obama, White House Press Conference, Nov. 3, 2010

Groundbreaking Film Probes Reality and Rhetoric of America's Natural Gas Boom

WASHINGTON – “Shale Gas and America's Future”, a 30-minute, made-for-TV film about the country's natural gas drilling boom was released today by the American Clean Skies Foundation (ACSF), a nonprofit organization formed to advance America's energy independence and a cleaner environment.

“Yesterday, at his post-election press conference, President Obama described the country's natural gas resources as ‘terrific,’” said Gregory C. Staple, ACSF's CEO. “In fact, energy experts say we have a hundred-year supply. But much of this natural gas is trapped in deeply buried shale rock formations, and can only be tapped using a drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing. That process has led to an intense environmental debate over the risks and rewards of producing this clean-burning domestic fuel. But what is rhetoric? And what is reality?”

“Shale Gas and America's Future” provides a unique look at how local communities in Pennsylvania are balancing the trade-offs related to gas drilling for themselves and the nation. The film explores the issues from all sides and features community meetings, unique drilling footage, 3-D animation and interviews with the state's top environmental regulator.

The film was commissioned by ACSF and produced by Hillmann & Carr, an Emmy award-winning, Washington D.C.-based documentary film company. The director is Jennifer Gruber, who won an Academy Award as location producer for “The Johnstown Flood”. Larry Klein, whose TV credits include top science shows for PBS and the Discovery Channel, is the film's senior writer.

"This film goes beyond other movies by showing the whole hydrofracking process, and what local citizens and state regulators are doing to limit potential environmental problems. It also puts local issues into context," Staple said. "The film talks about why we are drilling for gas – jobs, energy independence, the climate. On the flipside, the film gives voice to those who feel we should refrain from drilling for natural gas because it may endanger drinking water supplies or spoil the landscape. There are plenty of opinions. But we want people to take a look at what's happening for themselves and draw their own conclusion."



ACSF's new film supplements a Foundation-supported website launched this summer, www.shalecountry.com. The website features 12 first-person video stories about people caught up in the shale gas boom from Louisiana, Arkansas and Pennsylvania. The website also provides footage of a roundtable discussion between ACSF's Staple and independent film producer, Josh Fox, who created "Gasland".

To view "Shale Gas and America's Future", or order it on DVD, go to www.shalegasfuture.com

For further information, contact Jack Deutsch, ACSF communications director:
jdeutsch@cleanskies.org or 202-621-2910.