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“Shale Gas” Film Takes Top Washington Media Association Prize for Short Documentaries

"Shale Gas and America's Future," an educational film commissioned by the American Clean Skies Foundation (ACSF), has been awarded the top prize in 2012 for short documentaries by the Washington D.C.-area association of the Television, Internet & Video Association (TIVA). The film was created for ACSF in collaboration with Hillmann & Carr, a national production company.

The ACSF film provides a unique look at how local communities in Pennsylvania are balancing the trade-offs related to natural gas drilling for themselves and the nation. Under the direction of Jennifer Gruber, an Academy Award-winning principal at Hillmann & Carr, the film offers a careful look at the issue from many sides – energy security, climate, jobs, environment – and from the personal perspective to the national outlook.

It features unique drilling footage, community meetings and interviews with the state's top environmental regulator. The script was developed by Emmy-award winning writer Larry Klein, widely known for his work on the PBS science program NOVA.

"We're delighted that Washington's film and video community has recognized the exceptional work of Hillmann & Carr," said Gregory C. Staple, the CEO of the foundation. "Shale gas is one of the most important energy stories of our time and it is gratifying to know that an independent group of media professionals felt that we got it right."

Since its release in the winter of 2011, ACSF's film has aired on numerous TV and cable outlets in the Mid-Atlantic area and has garnered tens of thousands of views on YouTube and other sites. See <http://www.shalegasfuture.com/> DVDs of the film are also available from ACSF.

TIVA is a professional organization representing the large and diverse film, television and video community of the Mid-Atlantic area. Its mission is to serve the needs of the growing media production community in the National Capital region, which supports feature and independent films, television, documentary, commercial and other video and multimedia projects.

"I'm particularly pleased that we were also able to create a film in which local residents could speak for themselves," Gruber said. "It was important to create a film that can act as a catalyst for constructive dialogue."

For more details on TIVA and the 2012 awards,
see <http://www.tivadc.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1446985>

About the American Clean Skies Foundation

Established in 2007, ACSF seeks to advance America's energy independence and a cleaner, low-carbon environment through expanded use of natural gas, renewables and efficiency. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization.

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