

Welcome to the Natural Gas Exploration & Productions Health and Community Impacts Survey!

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, grassroots, conservation, education and advocacy organization formed in Damascus, Pennsylvania in 2008, out of concerns regarding the impacts of Natural Gas Exploration and Production (NGE&P) on the environment and on health. By completing our [NGE&P Health & Human Community Impacts Survey](#), your household, along with others in your area, will be describing, in detail, the impacts of NGE&P activities in your area. The Survey comes with complete [Question-by-Question Instructions](#) and [FAQs](#), but if you have any questions, you're always welcome to contact us by email at NaturalGasHealthSurvey@DamascusCitizensATSDR.org , By phone at 845-252-6677, or by postal service at DCS, PO Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443.

Quick Look -Things you should know Before Starting

NGE&P is our abbreviation for "Natural Gas Exploration & Production".

The Survey has been designed to maximize the potential to trigger a [Public Health Assessment](#) in your community by the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#).

The Survey will often refer to your "Survey Impact Area" (SIA). This is the area around your household (or households, if you are working as a group) that you want to report as being impacted by NGE&P activities. Your report (in the form of the Survey) of the impacts you have experienced, is what ATSDR needs in order to trigger a [Health Consultation](#) or Public Health Assessment in your area.

Who should take the Survey? If you, members of your household - or people or areas you know of - have been affected or impacted by NGE&P activities, you should take the Survey. NGE&P activities include gas drilling, hydraulic fracturing, materials handling, gas processing, gas transport, pipelines, waste handling & disposal, workers, trucking, seismic testing, gas storage and others. You can complete and submit a Survey even if you do not live within the Survey Impact Area of your concern. Sometimes, a concerned citizen, public official, health professional, community leader, industry worker or other person residing outside an SIA, has information or concerns to present. If you do not live within the Survey Impact Area of your concern, you can complete the Survey as if you were a head of a Household in that SIA.

Who should not take the Survey? If you have signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement related to NGE&P, you probably **should not** take the Survey. If you've signed an NDA, or are involved in legal action related to natural gas exploration and production, **consult an attorney before completing or submitting the Survey.**

With the Survey, DCS intends to correct the unfortunate situation of people who are impacted by NGE&P, having their experiences dismissed, ignored or judged as "anecdotal". ATSDR is a federal, public health agency - a division of the Center for Disease Control -

that focuses on the human health impacts of exposure to hazardous substances. We have designed the NGE&P Health & Community Impacts Survey to ensure that ATSDR is supplied with the data necessary to trigger Public Health Assessments, Health Consultations and [Community Assistance Panels](#) in impacted areas. As Survey data is collected, DCS will be making every effort to get assistance to impacted households and communities.

The Survey can be taken online or manually. You can find the links to the online Survey or the downloadable manual Survey on our [homepage](#) from the “Survey Information Menu” or in the red text. If you need a printed copy of the Survey sent to you, contact us by email at NaturalGasHealthSurvey@DamascusCitizensATSDR.org, By phone at **845-252-6677**, or by postal service at **DCS, PO Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443**.

The more completed Surveys and supporting documents from a single impacted area ATSDR receives, the more potential there is for assistance to be triggered. We urge separate households to find each other, pool resources and share experiences in order to form a [“Multi-Household Group” \(FAQ #12\)](#), Submitting Surveys as a Multi-Household Group provides the most complete picture possible of NGE&P’s impacts in a Survey Impact Area or [Community-at-Large \(FAQ #10\)](#), and maximizes the likelihood of an area being considered for a Public Health Assessment. A Multi-Household Group may contain as few as two households or hundreds. It can consist of two people or thousands. If you’re planning to work as a Multi-Household Group, you’ll first create a **Multi-Household Group Identifier** (MHID). This should be done before starting the Survey. For information on MHIDs, and easy instructions on how to create one, [see FAQ #13](#).

If this Quick Look, our FAQs and Question-by-Question Instructions don’t answer your questions, contact us for assistance by email at NaturalGasHealthSurvey@DamascusCitizensATSDR.org , By phone at **845-252-6677**, or by postal service at **DCS, P.O. Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443**.

Links referenced above:

The Survey Homepage - <http://www.damascuscitizensatsdr.org/>

Question-by-Question Instructions - http://www.damascuscitizensatsdr.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/survey_information.pdf

FAQs - http://www.damascuscitizensatsdr.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/survey_FAQs.pdf

ATSDR - <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Public Health Assessment - <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/com/pha.html>

Health Consultation - <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/com/consult.html>

Community Assistance Panel - <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/com/cap.html>