

*Bill Gorby*

Interviewer: Michael Kline  
Date: September 14, 2013  
Place of Interview: Meadow View Farm  
Transcriptionist: Adept Word Management

Bill Gorby: **0:00:11.0** Maybe I'm really not meant for posterity.

Michael Kline: Maybe we'll do this inside.

BG: What's it doing? Picking up all my little insect sounds?

MK: Yeah. Yeah.

BG: Okay.

MK: So, let's see what's—today is—

BG: Saturday, September the—is it the 10th?

MK: Fourteenth.

BG: Wow, where did the time go?

MK: Where's it go?

BG: Three days gone and I missed them.

MK: And we're at the Meadow View Farm in Jefferson County. Where, more specifically, are we?

BG: We're on 315 Township Road 15, Cottage Lane. We're on a 142-acre farm that my wife, Sherry, and I own.

MK: And could you say—could you introduce—say, "My name is."

Bill Gorby  
September 14, 2013

BG: **0:01:06.6** My name is Bill Gorby.

MK: And your date of birth?

BG: 9/28/49.

MK: Okay. Continue on.

BG: And we're sitting out here in the peace and quiet of this farm that we're trying to protect from the oil and gas companies. Just had a big run-in with the Global Corporation, which does seismic testing, which means they drill holes about 20-25 feet in the ground. They put 2 and a half pounds of explosive charges down there about every so often and then they blow off those charges, and they have the equipment stuck in the ground that reads what's under the earth here. And they're checking to see what the shale formation's like, how much gas is down there, or possibly could be down there, and oil. To get this equipment in some of the places, they fly helicopters. We have helicopters flying over our place in our little Mount Pleasant town up there—4 or 5 or 6 passovers a day, dropping equipment through these migrant workers that they bring up from Texas and Oklahoma to walk out in the woods—mostly, they're Hispanics—and set these charges off and get these readings. So, we're-we're fighting that and trying to preserve this place.

MK: So, what—when did all this—how did all this get going in the first place?

BG: Well, this all started, I guess, in—with hydraulic fracturing out west in Colorado and the Dakotas—years and years and years ago, 8 or 9 or 10 years ago with this type of hydraulic gas, and it was kept quiet out there. They destroyed a lot of waters, a lot of farms, a lot of cattle ranches, and finally, snuck in back here into Pennsylvania about 4, 5, 6 years ago, started drilling these wells and people started catching on, but not quick enough before they got into West Virginia and started destroying their landscapes and their waters and their wetlands and they people's air and peace of mind and quiet. And now, they're over here in Ohio, southeastern part of Ohio, trying to do the same thing, but people over here are—now with the news media and everything—are getting word of what can really happen, and so we're fighting this over here. And they're fighting it in Pennsylvania, but it's late for them. A lot of things have been bad for them. But we're fighting these big oil and gas companies that want to put in compressor stations and gas lines—30-inch gas lines that carry natural gas from our little part of the country up here down south where it's shipped out and sold to foreign countries for \$14-\$15 a gallon. So, as far as gas and oil independence, that's just a lie to the American public. And we're fighting that every day. We just had—an example, we've been fighting for about 2 and a half months. I accidentally found out that they were going to put a compressor station up here in our little town, Mount Pleasant, Ohio, which is a—on the historic map, as important as Williamsburg is and the—and the Underground Railroad, where we had black people from the South come up here and the Quakers put them up and hid them until they became free men, and they were free men up here. And this—this map is on the historic registry. Our byway is on as a historic byway and these oil and gas companies want to come in and they wanted to put a compressor station, a pumping station 1,600 feet from part of the residents in this town and only about a half a mile

from the center of this town. And now, I don't know if anybody's aware of this, but when these lines explode, they—you—you have to be a mile and a half away from them to be safe. So, we fought this and we got a movement going up here to fight—

MK: **0:05:32.6** Tell me that whole story.

BG: Well, that whole story is like—I went to a Spectra meeting—they're the people with the pipelines, and they were going to have a public meeting to actually kind of regroup—recruit people to lease their oil and gas or their right-of-way rights for a pipeline to come through, and while I was at this meeting, I accidentally came across a map that had the Dillonvale compressor station marked on there. And Dillonvale is just a little town right over the hill from my farm, here, maybe three-quarters of a mile, if you fall right up over the hill. So, I called the township trustee, Larry **0:06:08.8** (s/l Zellick), and I asked him where this compressor station was going to be that I just heard about last night, and he—in Dillonvale, and he said, well, that's not going to be in Dillon vale, Bill, that's going to be on my land. I said, on your land? Where? And he told me up on Route 50, right where they were going to put this, like I described earlier, right by these people's homes. So, I told him, I said, Larry, I'm going to have to fight you on this, and he brushed me off as like, well, okay. Well, I called the lady that lives up there, **0:06:37.5** (s/l Erma) Hooker, that lives on this—in this suburb that will be right across the fence line from where this compressor station was going to be, and she started doing some research 'cause she had never heard of gas lines, compressor stations—hydraulic fracking for that matter. She started reading and about a day, a day and a half, she was worried and she contacted her neighbors and they started a movement to stop this compressor station, and with the help of a man named Joe **0:07:06.4** (s/l Zellick), who's an entertainer, a pharmacist, a 38-year-old family man, very well-liked, very well-known in the community and the music community, and he got active in this and he fought this compressor station. And then, the sad part is his uncle Larry Zellick was the trustee that was selling the land. So now, they have family involved in this and he's been ostracized from that family because of this, and it just has people around here—actually, we do—we did get—in the final outcome, we got this compressor station moved. It's going to be moved—they really released a site on the 11th and told us where it was going to be, and it's going to be removed from that original location, our farther where there is—it's not going to affect anyone immediately, like a community or households and stuff. It will have an effect when they start polluting the air and stuff on peoples, but it's not going to—if it blows up, it's not going to kill anyone.

MK: Move it—you mean it's already there? They're going to remove it?

BG: No, no, not remove it. They—they picked an alternative site. They—they did not buy that 50 acres of land, which really upset the county commission, the township trustee because he stood to lose \$1 million plus, which you know, good (laughs). Greed needs to be compensated like that.

MK: Well, now—how could ordinary citizens, especially living in a small, out-of-the-way place like Mount Pleasant—how could they interfere in a private sale between a company and a landowner? What do you mean?

BG: **0:08:53.2** Well, it's not really a—

MK: And they put—they all put up signs, right?

BG: Yes.

MK: That wouldn't stop a sale, would it?

BG: That will stop a sale if—if there are guidelines that you have to follow even if you are a private corporation as big as the oil and gas companies—they need permits. These oil and gas companies with this pipeline, Spectra, which is an interstate pipeline—they can also use right of eminent domain. So—but if you show some concern and have some good facts and have some environmental studies that you can cite and explosions that you can cite, which this company has been in violation of a lot of permit—permitting and that kind of stuff, we're still in America and people still have a voice—not as much as a voice as we used to have—it's not the America we knew, and our government's certainly not following the constitution, but you still have a right voice your opinion. And if you can come up with some good arguments, you can get things changed. You know, it's not interfering with a—still in this country, it's your land, you can do what you want to with it—you can lease your acreage, you can sell it, you can do whatever—if it starts impacting others, then you have to stand accountable for that. And that's how people can get things changed—private sales—you're still accountable.

MK: So, give me more detail, now—so, the citizens are concerned. The sale's about to go through—

BG: Well, the sale was going to go through. The sale was not even made public to anyone—this was going to be a sneaky, behind-the-scenes kind of a sale between this trustee and this oil and gas company. I accidentally found out that this was going to happen by this guy telling me that it was going to be on his land. If I had not have accidentally found out about it—and it wasn't through any kind of great detective work on my part, it was just a completely—an accident—that this would have been a done deal. Sold. And these people in this community would've known nothing about it and it would have happened. It was just a—it was an act of God, in my mind, that we found out about it, and then the American citizens that were concerned about their livelihood, the value of their property, the safety of their children, the safety of our highways, and our air and our noise—and our quietness, I would say—the safety of our quietness got it changed, and that's what it took.

MK: But did they—was there—did they go to court about it?

BG: We did not go to court. We had open hearings, Spectra has open hearings and took some discussions, and like I said, this Joe Zellick has been on the radio—a lot of people know him. He had a very straightforward, compassionate, honest discussion on the air, and he attracted a lot of attention through—through his contacts. And that's what got it changed.

MK: So, was there petitions filed, or what?

BG: 0:11:53.3 There were letters sent to Spectra from our State Representative, Jack Cera, and our State Senator, Lou Gentile, who is—who are elected officials in Jefferson County, and they—on our behalf, after visiting the site, sent letters, so we had a lot of help from a lot of people. Mostly, it was a grassroots thing and that's what got things changed. But—but we did contact a few of our local officials. Most of our local officials—from the township trustees up to the county commissioners up to our governor—are pro-oil and gas fracking. Take the money, you know? We're in a desperate situation down here—people need money. They sell—they lease their land and they don't know what they're getting, but a few of us that are on top of this as much as we're allowed to be on top of this because we're always 5 steps behind these oil and gas companies—everything you come up with they have covered. But, we're dig—we're diligent, and we're working.

MK: So, they're still going to build the compressor.

BG: They're going to build a compressor station. They're going to run these pipelines, but they moved it away. Now, they moved it out of our area, but they're going to put it in somebody else's area. We would just like to see it done—done—just finished—no compressor stations. Wait until you get this thing worked out to where it's safe. And—but I don't think that's—that's the plan—it's at all cost. It's at our cost. So, that's where we're at.

MK: What's so undesirable about living close to a compressor station?

BG: Well, we out here in the country—I'll give it from my viewpoint. I raise cattle—Sherry and I raise cattle; we raise goats; we have about 200 animals that we put into the food chain. In Pennsylvania and the Dakotas, they have poisoned the water, and we have—we're dependent on water around here. We're—we were in a drought situation for the last 4 years with exception of this year when we had plenty of rain, but that's another story—that's climate change—we'll talk about that sometime. In my opinion that's what it is. But, it's just invading the peace and quiet and the health and the environment of your—of your lifestyle. It's quiet out here. We can look out at the sky at night, look up and see stars. This—this is going to be like an industrial site, where there's noise 24 hours a day, where there's pollution 24 hours a day, a chance it can—to contaminate your water, kill you animals—you know, I'm not taking this to an extreme, but there's documented cases of this, and that's what so bad about it. And we get—it's turning neighbor on neighbor; I've had issues with my neighbors because they want to get all the money they can out of this thing. I have 142 acres right in the middle of everyone that's leased around me, and we will not lease and we're frowned upon. We're made—we're mad at because we will not lease our property to the oil and gas company. They can lease theirs. All I'm asking is don't affect mine. Now when they set off explosions over there or if they start fracking over there, my water comes from the same aquifer theirs is—now they're impeding my lifestyle, and it's ugly. Neighbors are fighting neighbors; families are turning on families—like the Zellicks—they just bring bad vibes with them where ever they go—they're like the coal owners; they were like the timber owners; they're like the gold owners, you know, the same thing—they're greedy, selfish people and they'll—they will stop at no one's expense. That's what I believe. I've just been arrested for having an interaction with my neighbor. He was so upset that he grabbed me and I had to defend myself and then I was arrested for defending myself, but then what it came down to was oil and gas

lease rates—(helicopter above) and helicopters; speaking of helicopters, one's flying over right now. Can you hear that?

MK: **0:16:31.5** So, you had this altercation with your neighbor, did you say? This is somebody who—who wants to lease to the company or has leased?

BG: They have leased. What was happening was I woke—my wife woke me up, Sherry, about 8 o'clock in the morning. She said, we have the people from Global on Larry Boothe, who's also a neighbor's land, and she said that I don't know if—they're too close to our fence line, so we went down to speak with them and I got them to shut off their machine and spoke with them—2 nice guys; they were drilling. They were going to put these charges in the ground. We asked them—we told them we were waiting for someone from Global to come out here and measure the distance between their—their drill site there—their little explosive site—and our water sources, and they have to be 300-350 feet away. And they said, well, they didn't know that this was happening, so they would—they were going to move farther away from our land and drill until they found out what was going on. So, I asked him if they had permits, you know, to explode—and are they certified and if so, could I see them? And they—the readily agreed and so we met out on the road where their trucks were parked and when I got there, my neighbor Larry Boothe's wife was there and this guy that had—I had the altercation with was there; these 2 people from Global, and then their Global permit man, whose name is Dave Oxford, and he—I've had conversations with him before—anyway, when I got up there, words were shouted at me and then my neighbor said if I ever trespass on his place, he's going to break me in half, blah, blah, blah, blah—and so, that's—that's where that all started, that kind of a deal—just trying to find out if they were actually permitted to do what they were doing. And I just turn—it got ugly from there.

MK: You ended up—

BG: I ended up hitting this guy to get away from him—the neighbor. Yeah.

MK: And that put you where?

BG: That put me in jail (laughs). That put me in jail where I had no phone call. My wife didn't know where in the jail I was for 24 hours. She had no idea what they were doing with me in there. She kept getting the run-around. I believe all my civil rights—all of them were just disregarded—just discarded—just thrown out the window—no Constitutional rights—nothing—for a day. But, we got that straightened out; cost me \$1,200 in legal fees. I had—I plead no contest to an unruly conduct charge and that's the end of it. But it's not really the end of it because people are still fighting over rights—leased rights—trying to figure out if they own the mineral rights or does the property really own the mineral rights? A lot of this stuff is going on, and so, you know, a lot of people have to fight that. The neighbors are saying, well, they don't really own those mineral rights—maybe somebody else does. But—so, it's just all greed.

MK: It goes on and on.

BG: On and on. It's not stopping. It's not going to stop.

MK: **0:19:48.8** Tell me about what your brother is doing.

BG: My brother is a microbiologist. He's Yuri Gorby. And he, for the last—almost a year now, maybe more—has gotten interesting in this fracking. He worked for an institute that is supportive of his research into this fracking and he's going around in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio taking air quality samples, water quality samples to prove that the health effects of this is killing people—young kids, babies that are 6 months old that are breaking out; they can't sleep; they have weird twitches that come—come in their sleep; mothers whose hair is falling out; people that just break out with nosebleeds from breathing in this air, these waters around these compressor stations and gas wells, and that's what he's doing, is collecting samples to prove—have scientific fact, which they have, but even more so that this stuff is poison that we're letting our—that we're exposing our peoples to for oil and gas profits.

MK: The methane—

BG: The meth—everything—the radioactive materials that come up from the ground from this fracking fluids and these muds that they hire people to clean out the tankers. We have a friend, Randy Moyer, who was poisoned by this stuff. He can't drive a truck anymore. His story is on YouTube—Randy Moyer—you can check him out. And the companies are made aware of this, but if they have, they don't care; they don't care—they don't care about human lives. I don't care if it's in Iraq, if it's in—where do they drill? They drill everywhere in the world—America is just a third world country to them. We Americans are—we're not Americans to our government and to these oil companies that run our government. The—Dick Cheney and all his knowledge exempt the oil and gas companies from clear air/clean water acts. No regulations. But still, I guess we have some passionate people in Spectra and these lines that actually listen and—either for a goodwill thing so they can take somewhere else and cite us as, yeah, we pay attention to the American people and we really care about our people, and if somebody here is about that, maybe they can stop them from putting a compressor station next door, but if they don't, they bully them into saying, you have no right to stop this; eminent domain—it's for the good of the country.

MK: Spectra, again, is?

BG: Is part of the pipeline people that's putting in these pipelines—Spectra. They've—they're hired and they put these pipelines in for Chesapeake oil and gas, for Hess Corporation—all these—for BP—all these big gas/oil corporations hire these—hire different companies to put in their pipelines; to do—like Global—to do their seismic testing research—they subcontract. And now, when they are building these pipelines, we have welders and peoples in Ohio and Pennsylvania and stuff that can do this kind of work, but they bring peoples in from Oklahoma, Texas—you know, migrant workers that follow the pipelines and put these lines together. Since we've had this, we've had a big influx of heroin use, robberies, killings—we have a case now in Wheeling, West Virginia at Wheeling Jesuit college, where 2 pipeline people—actually, there were 4, but they caught 2 of them—beat a student at Wheeling college to death a week and a half ago—beat him to death. So, we don't know what we're getting up here. My point was that we have welders that can weld these pipelines. We have machine operators that can run these machines. Hire—if you're going to take all our resources from us—at least hire us to kill ourselves. The corporation

says, and our county commissioners and our city managers and everyone around here is saying that these are bring jobs to the areas, and they are bringing—the economy is better here because we have people charging \$600 a room in a house now to a migrant worker and we have migrant workers going to our restaurants and it's just business like that, but when damage is done and they all move out, that business is all going to go away—it's just temporary kind of business. And I was—I said at a couple county commissioner's meetings and county inspector meetings, if you really want to create jobs, why don't you bend that pipeline down to feed Wheeling-Pitt and Weirton Steel, which used to be the big steel makers and thousands and thousands and thousands of people in this valley had jobs, and give us a reduced rate on our power. If you really want to create jobs and you're going to destroy this Earth up here anyway, let us use that gas, but that's not happening because the market's not here. It's overseas.

MK: **0:25:22.4** That's the maddening thing, isn't it? I mean, that all this for overseas.

BG: It's just—it's not for us. They use eminent domain rarely, but they can use that, and to me, that was always used to help the betterment of the community. Eminent domain is like, you got a utility company that's going to run power lines through here—electric lines—but do you get to use those electricity up here? This is just going straight through our part of the country. We never get to use it. So, eminent domain does not apply here. It's not an interstate highway. And they can get away with that. I was going somewhere with that, Michael, but I can't remember where. The maddening thing—

MK: That it's for—all for foreign export.

BG: Yeah.

MK: Are you—were you raised off from here somewhere, or—

BG: I was raised in Steubenville, Ohio.

MK: How far is that from here?

BG: That's 23 miles north of here, but I'm in the same county that I was born in—Jefferson County. And Jefferson County—when I was being raised—when I was raised in Steubenville, had the same names as city leaders then as they do now. We had the same ones—uncles, grandparents—there were judges, county commissioners, sheriffs. Back then, when we were a prosperous—and the steel mills were running, and somewhere along the line, these same peoples let it slip and now we have the same peoples in charge, generations later, that are going to bring this back. I just don't see where they get the insight. What I was saying was in America—the America that I was raised in—we had Democrats, Republicans, and you voted. These guys are for this gas and oil company—our politicians, our elected politicians, for the betterment of a few—the oil and gas peoples—but they're saying it's for the betterment of all, so now when do we become socialist or communist? That's all I'm trying to say is when do we go away from our Constitution and now taking things from everybody, like socialism does and communism, which I—any of those -isms, I guess work if they're done right, even ours—capitalism—done right, but when do we become socialists and care about take from everybody just for the cause. They want

to take my gas, my oil, which they say they have a right to when they come under me because it's for the betterment of everybody. I'm not a communist or a socialist, I just—I'm a capitalist. I want my gas and oil under there. When I want to use it, I'll use it.

**0:28:37.0** (end of audio)

<b>D</b>	
Dillonvale.....	3
<b>F</b>	
fracking.....	3, 5, 7
<b>G</b>	
gas.....	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
Global.....	2, 6, 7
<b>H</b>	
hydraulic fracturing.....	2
<b>J</b>	
Jefferson County.....	1, 5, 8
<b>M</b>	
Meadow View Farm.....	1
Mount Pleasant.....	2, 3
<b>O</b>	
oil.....	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
<b>R</b>	
Randy Moyer.....	7
<b>S</b>	
Spectra.....	3, 4, 5, 7

Bill Gorby  
September 14, 2013