

Theodore Stump

Interviewer: Michael and Carrie Kline
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Michael Kline: **0:00:00.0** So, let's see—this is—today is the 4th—November the 4th—today is November the 4th, which would be election year next year.

Theodore Stump: Well, it will be on a Tuesday I would suspect.

MK: And we're in the—in darkest Doddridge—darkest Doddridge.

TS: Yes, we are. We're in **0:00:28.8** (s/l Rigginsville) Road in Doddridge County.

MK: And say, "My name is—"

TS: My name is Stump.

MK: Your name is Stump?

TS: Yeah, it's Theodore Stump, actually.

MK: Theodore Stump.

TS: (laughs).

MK: Tell me your date of birth.

TS: Oh, geez. It reaches back there actually—it's 4/7/49—do I have you beat, Michael?

MK: No.

TS: No, huh? Shucks. I'm creeping up on you, is that what you're saying? Okay, well—

MK: I was born in '40, but—

TS: Oh.

MK: So—

TS: **0:01:16.2** We moved here in 1978.

MK: Okay. Tell me—tell me just a little bit about your people and where you were raised.

TS: Well, I was raised in the East—went to high school and then grew up early in southern New Jersey, graduated with a BA from University of Delaware. And I worked in factories in my early life while—while I went to school. I quit the factories, quit the pond, and quit Generous Motors, and moved to West Virginia for the—the royal revival of the '70s, and—

MK: The royal revival?

TS: Yeah. Yeah, yeah—royal revival—it seemed like, oh this—the city life wasn't offering what I was looking for, and came to the country and just had enough skills to strike out on my own and figured that I was confident enough that I could make it anywhere, so—just came to West Virginia 'cause it ended up being the second best buy at the time in the country. Upstate New York was touted as the best buy, but it was mighty cold up there (laughs). So—and then we saw this—saw something, being from Jersey, that I never saw in an ad before—it was the word "free"—it had to do with gas, and since I never saw that word, not familiar with the word "free," I figured I'd come down and take a look. And as it were, it—not—not realizing that the land and the minerals were separated—it was a concept I hadn't thought to grasp in other situations when I'm in places before, and—but I soon found out what that situation meant, and it meant that you had—you had the rights to live on the land as long as—as—as no one that owned the subsurface wanted—wanted whatever you were living on top of. And they have the rights of way, the wherewithal, and the means to come get those—those resources, and they do. When I—when I first moved here I noticed the barn on 79 at **0:04:30.2** (???) that had the consolidated gas—legal thieves—the Rockefeller corporation—and—and that was prominently displayed on to—to the motorists on the interstate—the I-79—and so, I stopped to see that fellow, found out who he was—it was Jack **0:04:55.4** (s/l Shock), who had a landowners' association that was concerned with the storage—storage—natural gas underground storage cavities that were in Lewis County and the areas around him.

MK: Underground storage cavity?

TS: Yeah, yeah—they—there's lots of underground natural gas storage in Lewis County—around the state, actually, but there's a couple of pockets where they're very large—can hold, my guess, billions of cubic feet of gas, and they store it in these rock formation cavities under the ground. And when I talked to Jack Shock at the time, he was having a terrible time, and this was late '70s, around 1980, maybe, '81—and having a terrible time finding a lawyer that wasn't on the gas company payroll in this state because they all—well, hires—the gas extraction outfits will hire as many lawyers as they can, and especially in the area and beyond to lease chase and represent them in some fashion, so they're on some kind of a payroll to—to the gas companies, and that way—

MK: Like a retainer?

TS: **0:06:52.1** Yeah, they're retained or do work in some capacity at one point of another for the gas company, and it kind of compromises their ability to represent those who would oppose those interests. And Jack, at that time, Jack Shock—he was having a very difficult time trying to find lawyers that he could get to represent the landowners' interests against the extraction interests. And at the—at the same time, there was a large push in this state, and they had public hearings that were broadcast live over public radio at the time from Charleston, and it was a push for the landowners to have an eighth of the interest of any drilling activity that results in royalties or profitability. And—and the—the hearings were extensive and they looked like a real possibility, but it—it never—it never translated into legislative action in this state, and so it—it died at that time, and it's been, you know, 30 years ago.

MK: They couldn't even get an eighth?

TS: No. No, they—no, they—they—the extraction companies—they just didn't want to give up that—that eighth off of the—off of what their interests were, so—so the landowners—they ended up empty-handed, more or less. And then, there's been a couple of drilling surges since that time, but this current Marcellus push is by far the **0:09:11.0** (???) (inaudible) and the largest and most destructive, and the—what they require in their locations and access is—is an absolutely tremendous amount of rural properties that—that—it's—it's so unimaginable that people sign leases for access roads and the next thing you know the access road is 50-foot wide and 2 lanes of traffic, and they just didn't realize that they were going to lose so much of their potential farm or pasture areas that there's starting to be more pushback now, but it's—it's a little late in the game. I think—I think the mechanisms are in place for a development of—the kind of which we're only seeing if maybe the first 10% at the moment, but it's—it's having a large effect on the aquifer and I—I would—I'm guessing from what I'm hearing anecdotally that—from friends and neighbors that are exposed to some of these sites—that it's a tremendous toxic situation with the air pollution. Of course, the carcinogens let off in the air and those that may disrupt the quality of your water are all apparently, at the moment, tax-exempt from the 1905 energy legislation that was pushed by the Cheney Administration.

MK: 2005?

TS: Yeah.

MK: Say that.

TS: Well, the—

MK: You said 1905.

TS: Oh, did I say 1905? 20—Yeah, the 2005 energy legislation exempted these drilling extraction companies from 7 of the major federal regulation concerning clean water, clean air, and stream flow, and—

MK: What—do you have a list of those 7 exemptions from the—clean air and clear water?

TS: **0:12:32.3** From the regulations?

Carrie Kline: I do, but I don't know it offhand.

TS: Okay.

CK: It's the—one of them is the water routine—the fresh—the streams and stuff—they're exempt from that. The other one—I'd have to look at it.

MK: You mean—

TS: The regulations that were established by Congress for EPA, air quality, and water quality—management—and I need—this is federal legislation, but they gained the exemptions through that—lobbying the meetings that they had with Vice President Cheney—he wrote the—the energy legislation at that time in 2005.

MK: Was that like an executive order?

TS: No, no, no—that was a bill that they wrote up and passed through both houses that—I forget the exact name of it, but it was a rather comprehensive energy bill that—that also contained these exemptions for this particular type of extraction in concerning Marcellus Drilling; however, the—with Vice President Dick Cheney writing this—heading the writing of this bill—he's former extraction company executive for Howard Burton, and I'd say that—that his interests were—were clouded from the interests of the country at that time, so—but this is the end result—the EPA and the DEP on the state levels are saying that these exemptions tie their hands for—for regulation and monitoring, although they have increased the inspectors, there's just way too much and—and way too large amount of sites and—to be covered by the few—the few inspectors and regulators that there are. The DEP has—has hired more people, but it's—it seems to be more people to buffer—buffer the public from the—from the department that's supposed to regulate, so they have—they're been having a few meetings around this state, and they've had one or 2 in this county and surrounding counties that result in more questions than any answers, and it's a situation where—where you just realize that—that they—that they, in fact, aren't going to be regulated without public oversight, and until public gets involved on a larger scale, there—there won't be—there won't be much in the way of accountability because there's only—there's only one interest here and that is the natural resource extraction and the profitability thereof. So, the—that's what you're against. Not that anybody wants to deny someone any profitability—it's just there is a situation where you can profit and yet do the right thing for your—for your environment and your neighbors and your—your country and your fellow human beings. It's just—it's not being addressed at the moment. But there's some public concern and some—the more people that are affected—and I've noticed in just the past year—even though we're only in the first possibly 10 percentile of this type of development, the growing numbers of people affected are being shown in some of these concerns—we've had young children, college age children from the Mountain Justice Organization here—they're been hosted at the—at the county park for the last 2 years, and they're an active young group, I believe, based in one of the small colleges in eastern Kentucky. Their concerns are not only the natural gas situation, but also the coal and the nuclear concerns—the energy concerns in general that—I mean, it's a nice organization of young

folk that are—they're looking to be—see what they can do to become active for the environment in their—in their time. And it's nice because you and I reach back a ways and we, of course, we remember the activities in the '60s—it was different concerns at the time—the war and poverty, the Civil Rights, and although those same concerns are touched here in—certainly in justice and rights, and since you're in Appalachia doing this interview, poverty always comes into play. People are easily swayed by—by outside interests who—who promise money and other things, and it's—to someone who hasn't had any—opportunities come their way, monetarily or otherwise, I think it's an easy sell to have people sign a contract, of course, not read it and live with the results later on. The results are usually not positive, so—a lot of activity in this particular neighborhood right now. They have turned—they've turned beautiful working farms into industrial sites in places where you never would imagine there to be such a site. And I realize it's big business—it's being touted from Wall Street to Beijing. I don't—I don't know what the end consequence will be, but there will be a lot of displaced people that have—even at the moment are selling out and moving because the disruption in their life and their exposure to the toxins that they feel they can avoid by possibly leaving to go somewhere else. I will say, you know, I've been here such a long time, we just have to stick it out—of course, we're not mineral rights owners either. Now, that idea of free gas is—is—is most inviting, undoubtedly, but there is a—nothing's free—it's a large trade-off. You can see the results on any farm, in particularly this one here. This—this farm was—had a ring of gas wells around it.

MK: **0:22:45.9** Dating back to?

TS: Dating back to the '40s and '50s and even into the '60s—they've probably shut most of them in and still have one in the back operating, but all the evidence of all the others are still here—never any cleanup, never any site restoration, never any old pipe pulled out of the ground unless it was large enough to cash in and easy enough to get to—to pull it and cut it and cash it out—but there's—if you just look in my creek up in the back, there's, oh, probably 8 or 10 obsolete gas and oil 2-inch pipelines running up and down the creek and up and down the hills, and never any responsibility taken for any of that. It's—and it'll always be the same, actually—these people that are—that are in this most recent drilling phase—the disruption and the runoff in the stream fill from the well pad location, road building, and pipeline construction are just tremendous, and they're raising the—raising the creek levels with the amount of sediment that's coming off these locations and settling into the lower creek beds and whatnot. And it's—it's raising the floodplain—in some places, dramatically. We just had a floodplain ordinance rewrite in this county with the coordinator of that—it's one man who doesn't have his engineering degree for any of that situation, and he did a rewrite—it was the gas company's input.

MK: Here in the county?

TS: Yes, in Doddridge County. It just passed through the 3—3-person commission of this county, and—but the commission has also been a rubber stamp for the gas and oil interests because there—there's conflict of interest, for one, with some of the commissioners where they—they have holdings, conflicts of interest with the lawyer for the county commission, and also, I would say doesn't have clean hands as far as the—as far as representing the people of the county against the people of the extraction industries, and it's—it's a situation where those who—who feel the capitalistic interests out-trump any—any interest for the common good, there are—

there's a large percentage of those people and they—they happen to be the ones also in positions of most power in this particular county, but this particular county has always been—it's one of the smallest populated counties in this state—second smallest, I think, in this state—I mean, the whole county may have 8,000 people, so—but—and it's a large county and—so, it's a rural county, and not a lot of industry—gas has always been a part of this county, and timbering interests—no coal, except for the—at this point, the Pittsburgh vein is about—I believe about 2 miles down, but the neighboring county—the Pittsburgh vein is about a mile down, and they're going after it, apparently—at that point—

MK: Which county is the **0:28:12.4** (???) (inaudible).

TS: That would—no—that would be Harrison County. Yeah, yeah, we have friends over in the—in the Wallace area that have been contacted by coal interests that told them they would be doing subsurface excavating and—of coal in their—in their neighborhood, and that's a long way down, but then again, there is shakeup in the coal industry at the moment—**0:28:46.9** (s/l Consolugis) sold a bunch of their wells in that—in that area of Harrison County to—and I forget to who—I didn't read the article yet, but a lot of the wells are changing h—or, a lot of the mines are changing hands—the coal mines in Harrison County. So, anything else you need to know about—

MK: What you said a while ago about the sediment from the pad sites—

TS: Yeah.

MK: Filling up the creeks and causing higher water.

TS: Yeah. Yeah.

MK: I've heard many times in places like Boone County with regard to mountaintop removal, which also, as you might imagine, creates a lot of sediment.

TS: It sure does—I mean, that's—and that's a concern that we've brought to the—to the county commission just a few weeks ago with this well location around the corner from us on 23, there—you saw the well location that's in the middle of the road, or just about in the middle of the road—and it only has a small area in which to operate, and they had—they hadn't met even the minimum of requirements, and we went and signed a complaint to deny permitting of this well—and actually, we got a petition going to challenge the viability of the permitting at this location because they had put a sediment pond right on the creek. The well pad location is just barely 250 feet from the—from the nearest neighbor's water well location, and although that doesn't meet current guidelines, the permit was issued under the previous guidelines, which, I believe the current guidelines have just come into effect as of November 2011—the new guidelines from—issued from the state legislature, concerning permitting of these Marcellus wells in the state of West Virginia. And in our petition to deny permitting of this particular well, the location that's on Route 23, here, they didn't meet the requirements of having a 3-foot barrier to contain any—any well fluids that may escape during the drilling process, and the sediment pond on the creek was an illegal situation. They removed that—the put around—they put Jersey barriers up—the

concrete barriers that they use on highways—and then they lined—lined the area with plastic that—that overlapped these Jersey barriers to—as their containment berm of the—their 3-foot containment berm from this well location. And so, at the hearing before the county commission, it was us folks testifying for permit denial and J.B. Drilling Operation that was representing the pro—pro-permit, allowing the site to develop, and they brought in a geologist who worked for them and worked for the state, and—to—to present the case that even though it looks like it's in a floodplain, that the drilling operation and the well pad construction would only lead to less than a possible foot rise in the water shed at—for the—for flood permitting, so they—

MK: **0:34:29.5** (???) (inaudible) that they could find anybody who would believe that?

TS: Well, yeah, sure they all believed that—I mean, they're—they plug in the figures and come up with a—with a table and chart that—that shows—and since they're—since we're concerned citizens without the degrees and the—in geology or—or the like, that we—that our standing of concern didn't carry the weight of their understanding of the geology and the processes of water shedding, and—and my point was, back to your rising sediment, therefore rising level of floodplain activity, they—the geologist did admit that it's a constant changing, but immeasurable situation with sediment runoff, and no way to—to measure or calculate the particular results. So, it does make it a very unexact science—if you can't account for all the factors, of course it's unexact at that point. So—there—you know, there's pushback, but—and—and-we realized that the pushback is misconstrued in a raw manner oft times because they think there's possible jealousy factors or any—any number of things that—that even though we say it's a quality of life situation, the situation is such that it's—they're—they're positing the fact of capitalist gain and employment, as opposed to quality life of residents. And it seems to be another inexact science—you know, what is quality of life worth as compared to jobs and profitability? It's inexact, that's all. So—

MK: When you said, "we," I got a sense that it was a group of neighbors, is it?

TS: Yeah, it's mostly a group of neighbors—we have—

MK: **0:38:06.3** (???) (inaudible) have a group developed on strategies of (???) (inaudible).

TS: Yeah, actually we do—we do have an organization in this—in this neighborhood, headed by Wayne Woods on Brush Run—no, on Broad Run in Doddridge County—and the organization is the Doddridge County Watershed Association, and that's an organization of concerned citizens of Doddridge County that—that like to monitor the—the streams and the aquifers and target them for cleanup—the streams and creeks, that is—and the—and we have active cleanup days. And also, they're—they have been helping with some of these people with their water testing of their—of their private drinking wells that—this county's been larger rural—it's mostly outside of the—of the county seat of West Union—it's largely individual water wells on—that service each farm, and we've been talking to different neighbors that are experiencing water troubles in one manner or another—that it's either discoloration or added solids or conductivity or 0:40:10.0 (s/l solidity) or other situations too that we've come to find out through water testing that—that need monitoring, such as arsenic is a large problem in this county in the water supply—a lot of that is

due to mineral breakdown that naturally occurs, but there's also other—other contributing factors—the amount of methane in the—in the aquifer and personal water supplies is a large concern. **0:41:10.1** (s/l Mariana Baram), who you—who was talking earlier, had contacted folks at Duke University, who have—who had a—a grant to study water—the aquifers—and I don't—I'm not sure how the money was procured for that grant—whether it was solely targeted at that or whether that was part of a larger grant where these monies were pooled off, and they did come to our area—a small contingent of two fellows did the—did water testing, and came back with the results—and that was this—that was over this past summer of 2013, and right in—in this immediate area of the county, they had results for, I'm guessing, maybe 20 or 30 different households—they returned with the results and showed us what we're—what were the concerns and what are the—the acceptable levels, and there was—most everybody had acceptable drinking water levels, except one or 2 people had elevated arsenic levels, and some had elevated methane levels that were—that were deemed high enough to suggest that they get another source of their drinking water and use that particular well water for things such as clothes washing and things other than ingesting. So—yeah, we had—we had high—high arsenic levels—now, our arsenic was at—between 7 and 8, I guess, parts-per-million, whereas—

MK: **0:44:01.6** Right here at the house?

TS: Yes—out of our shallow well. That is our sole source of drinking water. And I guess the EPA suggested that over 10 parts-per-million, that you seek another source for your water consumption, and we—we did find that our particular drinking water was—the conductivity was raising and it dissolved solids, and through the testing of the—thanks to our friends at the Doddridge County Watershed and—we got some testing equipment, and our concern was—was growing to the point where we ordered a reverse osmosis drinking water treating system for our particular—for our drinking water.

MK: At what cost?

TS: About \$400 and some—it's an under-the-sink system of 3 filters and a membrane that reduced tremendously our conductivity and our dissolved solids—we're much happier with this water that we're—that we're ingesting now 'cause it's just—it's a concern with—there's a lot of people in this county and neighboring counties around these gas areas that are having very real problems with toxicity **0:46:19.8** (???)—and, of course, you never—it's something that you don't—you don't know that you're being exposed, and you don't know at what point's the tipping point until it's too late. When you're talking about these noxious toxins, you don't know at what point you're ingesting too much. You can't know until the time is nigh, and—so, it's a situation that's very sketchy, and I imagine—I imagine it plays a part on—on these people that have drilling operations very close to their water supplies, so it's sure to be a disruption—it's—the whole idea of the fracking—frac drilling is extremely bad science, anyway. I mean, they're relying on—on tried and true failure of concrete encasement, which is nearly—nearly guaranteed to fail 10% of the time—it's just the nature of concrete. And that's your only—that's your only buffer point between the 2-mile vertical or the well shaft and the aquifer of the—of the entire country and state and—it's just—the science—the science has always been this way. I believe that you follow—you follow what you can do first and then deal with the consequences—the unthought-of consequences later. This happens to be one—sure, there's been frac drilling going on for a

number of decades, but it's still— is not a—it's not a science that's perfected or even deemed safe in all respects.

MK: **0:49:04.7** So, what's the rush? The gas isn't going anywhere.

TS: No, the gas isn't going anywhere. The rush is 2- or 3-fold—the money and the incentive is there to come and gather up as much as leased land as you can and secure that leased land for possible drilling, and as long as the exemptions are there for site prep, equipment, and operations to be more or less a major business write-off, then you can come in at low expense, invest a lot of money, get—get a lot of it in return of a tax incentive, and still have the land tied up for drilling—even though the prices are depressed or still—and they see—they also see the writings on the wall—there is a lot of danger associated with this for them and the area residents, and they see where New York state has had their moratorium in for over 6 months now—it's the year moratorium on all drilling—that brings all the activity to the places where it's wide open without regulation and without pushback, and that's why there's such a major push to bring those rigs into West Union—drill immediately—same—same idea in a lot of Pennsylvania—Pennsylvania's just putting together some legislature now that—concerning the Marcellus drilling. West Virginia has yet to—outside of a small token bit of legislation 2 years ago that probably did things like raise the drilling permits from \$5,000 to \$10,000—there's really not—it was legislation with no teeth for protection of either the environment or the residents or the state. So, I think the idea that a state as large as New York can hold their moratorium on Marcellus well frac drilling is—is testament to what people can do, and it's also seen upon as a fearful situation for the drilling extraction companies because they don't want that kind of sediment to spread throughout the states. Ohio is just now becoming a little bit more active. Every time that there—that there's a moratorium on a certain area, the gas companies have been vicious in retaliation—Wellsburg, West Virginia—their town counsel put a moratorium on drilling in their town and immediately, the gas company pulled back their previously announced \$2,500 grant to the school and—

MK: \$2,500?

TS: \$2,500—a whopping \$2,500, yeah. And now the situation here last week, they had a meeting in Pennsboro, West Virginia called by Antero and hosted by Antero Drilling, and where they wanted the people of the area in town of Pennsboro to bring in their tax receipts to see that—if they have the—if there are subsurface mineral right owners that would like to sell off those—lease those rights or sell those mineral rights off, so that Antero can drill in that area under the town of Pennsboro, and it was brought up very first question and answer period—it was brought up the fact that the town all ready has an ordinance that forbids and negates any kind of drilling in that town, and a representative for Antero said—told the fellow that brought that point up that we've been in contact with the commissioner and we feel that there's a way around this—so apparently, with a disregard contempt for the laws and the people in the state of West Virginia, it's a situation where it's, we will fight you in order to gain greater capital. So, I believe that's the situation where we stand right now.

MK: People in other counties in other parts of the state refer to Doddridge County as a ground-zero. What—as a resident of the county—what does that mean to you?

TS: **0:56:08.7** Well, what that actually means is there are more operating rigs that are working to drill the Marcellus shale in this county than any other county at the moment. It is ground-zero because it's—situated on rural county where gas companies always operated—once out of sight, then it's anything goes. They're always—always blown off the—the drip gas and the like from these oil wells right into the creeks because nobody was looking—it's not because there was regulation against it, which there is—but they didn't want to take the time or the effort or the expense to build a—have a containment vessel for those things. They're always bemoaning the regulations that they're—that they're looking to ignore, so that's a—but, yeah, ground-zero—that's because it's—it's here and it's a favorable political climate, so there's not a lot of opposition. This has always been a gas area, as I say—however, 1860, a Mathey signed the first oil and gas lease around Patterson Fork in Salem, there. And they've taken—they've taken full advantage ever since there's a big demand for natural gas, although the price has depressed because there's so much of it—it's—I don't—I don't know what will shake out from here.

MK: Did I hear recently that this is—that this field right through here has been compared with Saudi Arabia?

TS: Yeah. As a matter of fact, there's—that's part of the selling point that we have.

MK: What is—say what it is.

TS: It's the—part of the selling point to the—to the people of this state and people of this country, is the fact that with the ability to do these deep well drills and this Marcellus fracking of this shale—the potential to harvest many more trillions of cubic feet of natural gas that they—that they weren't able to get to before opens up a situation where it may well displace coal in part, and although they go hand-in-hand, oil—oil and natural gas often come from the same location—the same well—and they just feel that this—that the availability of the Marcellus shale—and under that, the next shale, the Utica, holds tremendous deposits that, just like Saudi Arabia, held tremendous oil deposits under their surface, so that's—that's the comparison—the fact that there's a large—more recent discoveries of these subsurface shales and the fact that now you can drill down a couple miles—that the technology exists to drill that far, and slowly curve the drilling operation into a horizontal situation that follows the shale—the—whether it's—whether that shale layer is 20 or 30 feet thick or whether it's 3- to 5-foot thick, you can follow the shale line and apparently extract tremendous amount of gas, although this particular shale gas is a wet gas, compared to what was recently coming out of the shallow well mines—it turns out that the wet gas is also an asset that—for liquification, so consequently everyone on Route 50 here in Doddridge county, it—MarkWest location, they have a large liquification plant there that trucks out liquid natural gas—that's, I believe that the temperature to do that is a minus couple hundred degrees or so, and—but they're able to the liquify it, truck it, and ship it in a much more stable and compact measure than—that just gasification of a pipeline, so that's been very profitable for those—for that operation over there—that's very large—if you want to see that, that's—you can see that from Route 50—extremely large industrial site.

MK: **1:03:14.3** What was there before?

TS: It was a farm. It was a—a pasture—pasture and hay farm, and actually a local banker, a retired banker bought—bought and owned that property, and talked many times about different development schemes that he had—a motocross motorcycle race track, and any number of ventures, and then—then the gas company—then the gas drilling started, and they offered him an extremely large amount of money for that property. This fellow around the corner from me just sold his farm, and they're putting in a compressor station—of course, they have these compressor stations every—every so often to boost the pressure through the pipelines and push more—well, they built it to push more gas, so—and guy got a tremendous amount of money for that farm—million, million and a half—something like that. So, I mean, you know, the money is—is there—there's a lot people that have come out of this feeling very good about themselves for—for, you know, being able to cash in on this situation. I don't begrudge a one of them, but it's a—you got to kind of keep in mind, though, that what you're doing at your place does affect your neighbor—that's—you know, that's what I loved best about West Virginia—was—being from the East, you know, it's a different world and it's very aggressive. When I got to West Virginia, I was so shocked that this is the only place that I've ever been ever where people still knew the value of a good neighbor—that's—that's West Virginia's biggest asset.

MK: Is that going through some changes with this—with all this development now?

TS: Why, sure it is, because when you cash out or sell out without regard to how it does affect your neighbor, then there's a lot of animosity. It's one thing to throw up your hands, say you've made it, and leave—it's another to have to look at your neighbor whose situation hasn't changed except for the worst and say, you know, "I've got mine."— It's tough though. So, yeah—yeah, I think—I think it is—I think it's going to change the attitude for quite a while because there—it is creating division. There are those who want to see the right thing done, and there are those who really are not concerned—it's the—for some of them, I'm sure it's the old adage of a—of starving person—would you rather have freedom or a sandwich?— So, let's face it. They only have one choice—I'll take the sandwich. There is no other option. So, there you are.

MK: Or they don't see anything.

TS: Well, no—everybody does see their own situation, and it's hard to—it's hard to go for the long view past that for many.

MK: See, let me wrap my mind around what you just said—would they rather have freedom or a sandwich?

TS: Yeah. Yeah, you ever ask a—that's an old '60s thing, you know (laughs). Yeah, you invade a country and say, we're bringing you freedom, and say, well, yeah, we're starving—freedom doesn't help (laughs). Yeah, so that's an old postulate where it's, you know, would you rather have freedom or a sandwich—well, it's the immediate reward for the—as compared to the long view. And who could love a long view when they're hungry?

MK: So, do these divisions or these lines become more clearly drawn when you—

TS: **1:08:35.9** No.

MK: When you have an emerging organization like the Doddridge Country Watershed Association?

TS: Well, I mean, it's—what it does actually is bring up some of the old stereotypes of division, whereas you have the worker be wage role earners, saying, look, the tree huggers have no other interest, and it disrupts our economic abilities, and let's face it, they're not looking at the fact that the tree huggers have economic viability that they have to try and reach on, so, I mean, they're—they're all in the same boat together. We all are. And any time you can—you can divide, then you're creating a polarizing situation, and it's—it's never been a pretty thing. Nobody—nobody realizes—or, not nobody realizes, that's a silly statement—but, we're all in this together. There are—there are viable solutions we can come up with that will make everybody happy, but it's always an us-against-them idea. At that meeting the other night that Antero hosted, they had a lot of their people who work for them ring the room with bodies and shout down those who were questioning the safety and viability of some of these operations.

MK: Where was that meeting held?

TS: That was in Pennsboro, in Ritchie County, West Virginia.

MK: Who called it?

TS: Antero advertised it and said—advertised it as a barbecue, termed by many as a "bribe-acue" (laughs), and everybody ended up well fed and Antero got to present their concerns to try and persuade and garner leases for those people in favor of drilling under the—under the town. And it's not just these little towns either—honest to goodness, it wasn't too long ago that Pittsburgh Airport signed their leases over to drill under there. Here in Clarksburg, I believe it was, RCB High School that cold their leases to allow drilling under their facilities, so it's un—under schools, it's under municipalities, and we know the danger is there—we've already had 20-inch pipeline explosion in Sissonville this past year that, luckily enough, didn't result in any fatalities, but it was just because it was a rural stretch of the Interstate 77 and nobody happened to be passing through at the time—that was a tremendous explosion that—that destroyed 6 neighboring homes to the interstate, which weren't that—really that close to the interstate, but still—those people were not at home at the time, so that was a—it was just a fortunate situation that no—no serious injuries, no lives lost. But that was a situation where pipelines have gone 20 years without monitoring, and there—there's a lot of bad—there's a lot of bad pipeline work right now. There's a large rush on to install pipelines through West Virginia and out of West Virginia into the Northeast and to carry natural gas to residencies up and down the Northeast, and we have a pipeline going at the end of this hollow that Equitrans is installing. My neighbor, who is a—who's a well-schooled mechanic and welder did a lot of welding on—for government projects and is familiar with the pipeline welding that went on in Canada and Alaska—it's a lot different standards, apparently, in those places than it is here, because not only were those welded, but—those pipes—pipelines welded, but they were additionally banded and double-welded at each seam just—just because the terrain is actually similar to what is here, as far as up and down elevations in a short area—strain on pipelines—seismic activity, which would tend to disrupt and show any weakness in any of these pipelines, and that's another situation with this—since this

Marcellus drilling has been going on—it's increased seismic activity in places like Arkansas, Youngstown, Ohio—actually, we did—oh, and our own state, too, in Braxton County is still experiencing seismic activity on a—just about a bimonthly basis, but there was a proposed injecture well, which is where they dispose of the leftover fracking fluids from the wells that they have already serviced with drilling. They're able to recoup, I guess, about 25 to 50% of the frac fluid from these wells—the rest, of course—it's a—it's a toxic mixture of chemicals that are designed to expand rock under pressure, and it's a mystery brew that they're using for these frac fluids—600 million gallons per well—

MK: **1:16:54.5** A mystery brew?

TS: A mystery brew of what these—of what's in the fracking fluid. They won't release it because they feel it—industrial privilege to keep their formulas in this fracking fluid private so that, they say, so that the other drilling companies won't be able to realize what their formula is and thereby copy it; however, there's so much extremely toxic chemicals in these things—in these fluids that, as a result, when it washes—when it washes off the well pad and into the aquifer, people—this is another source of the toxic poisoning resulting from these fluids, and in the situations where they have had people affected, they still have refused to release the ingredients of these frac fluids, and I know in Pennsylvania, in a case this past year where a toxic-infected patient was in the hospital and the doctor wanted to know what—what they had been exposed to in order to treat it, the gas company said that they would only reveal the ingredients of the fluid—fracking fluid—if she signed a non-disclosure form that would not allow her to reveal to anyone else what this—what these chemicals are. It's just silly—that's not putting the people before profit, that's for sure.

MK: **1:19:24.9** (???) (inaudible)

TS: Yeah, well, that's—they feel it's an industrial privilege and they just—they just don't want to relinquish any information that they feel that they don't have to.

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Theodore Stump
 November 4, 2013