

Penn Program on Regulation



The Risks and Regulatory Challenges of Unconventional Oil and Gas Development

Tuesday, January 27, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

John M. Huntsman Hall, Room G50, 3730 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

SPEAKERS:

Bernard Goldstein

*Emeritus Professor and Dean
University of Pittsburgh Graduate
School of Public Health*

Mitchell Small

*H. John Heinz Professor of Civil
and Environmental Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University*

Hannah Wiseman

*Attorney's Title Professor
Florida State University
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MODERATOR:

Adam Finkel

*Senior Fellow and Executive Director, Penn Program on Regulation
University of Pennsylvania Law School*

The ability to recover oil and natural gas from previously-inaccessible geologic formations is simultaneously being described as a silver bullet for economic growth and energy independence, as well as a land-use disaster and a “game-changing” accelerant of global climate change. While assessing the probability and magnitude of risks to public health and the environment continues to occupy researchers, regulatory authorities in the U.S. and around the world must confront whether and how to assert controls over the pace of, and safeguards upon, technologies including the “fracking” of shale to release natural gas and surface mining or steam injection of oil sands. In just the past month, one U.S. state has banned hydraulic fracturing altogether (New York), while another has given it a definitive but regulated green light (Maryland).

This seminar will feature presentations by, and discussion among, three leading scholars of the regulatory governance of unconventional oil and gas development. Panel members will share their insights on how regulators can balance the various conflicting policy and economic interests that surround hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional techniques of energy extraction.