



THE ALLIANCE FOR AQUATIC RESOURCE MONITORING
DICKINSON COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

educate. engage. empower

June 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to affirm our qualifications for an innovation credit through the work the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) based out of Dickinson College, has done to empower communities with scientific tools to understand whether or not their local streams are being adversely effected by natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. As an organization, ALLARM is at the vanguard to ensure water quality is being protected across the Commonwealth.

Since its founding in 1986, ALLARM has become a nationally recognized technical and programmatic support center for community organizations interested in watershed assessment, protection, and restoration. Through the work of professional and student staff, ALLARM offers comprehensive services to enable groups to use critical scientific tools to enhance environmental quality and fully participate in community decision-making.

Today Pennsylvania is at a turning point for environmental protection. It is estimated that 72% of the state is underlain by Marcellus Shale. Last week, American Rivers just stamped the Susquehanna, the longest river in Pennsylvania, as the "most endangered river" in America. This was primarily due to the potential for over 400,000 natural gas wells planned for Pennsylvania. With budget cuts looming in the DEP and the lack of state oversight at natural gas wells, ALLARM created a Marcellus Shale volunteer monitoring protocol as an avenue for community groups to serve monitor the health of Pennsylvania waterways .

The monitoring manual is a comprehensive guide that facilitates essential scientific and technical knowledge regarding water monitoring processes. ALLARM's role is not just to distribute this information, but rather to present this material to concerned citizen groups who are educated as to how to collect and analyze baseline samples, interpret data, take action, and finally archive their findings.

These one-day workshops have now taken place sixteen times across the northern tier of the state and into southwestern Pennsylvania—those places being most effected by the drilling. ALLARM has another seven workshops planned for this summer in counties throughout the Shale-gas regions in the state. ALLARM feels its program is essential for citizen assurance and creates capacity and community building opportunities. Dickinson College's ongoing support for this organization—through budget support (70%), scientific assistance, and student engagement—has allowed ALLARM to flourish for 25 years.

ALLARM welcomes the opportunity to discuss our program further. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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ALLARM Director

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