

October 2, 2012 PRESS RELEASE

Chrostwaite Institute Teams with Carnegie Mellon University to create comprehensive research site on Marcellus and Utica Shale Natural Gas Extraction

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/marcellus-biblio/>

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HARRISBURG---The Chrostwaite Institute, a nonprofit education and research arm of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, and in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon University, announces the availability of the most comprehensive online compilation of literature on natural gas extraction issues in the Marcellus and Utica shale plays. This site is a comprehensive bibliography of existing research that allows policymakers, scholars, administrators, the industrial community and agencies to open new investigative arenas in natural gas extraction in Pennsylvania.

Two recent Heinz College graduates, Anna Kasunic and Collin Siu, provided the bibliographic and technical support for the project. Carnegie Mellon University received a grant from the Chrostwaite Institute to conduct this project. Kasunic and Siu catalogued more than 1,200 works of scholarly research, industry and think tank reports, government documents, maps, reports and existing research guides to initially populate the site.

Document searches can be conducted by keyword, browse by category, or download the catalogue in Microsoft Excel format. This effort identified over 530 documents that discuss economic issues such as employment and tax revenues, whereas only two works deal with population changes and none with welfare.

“We represent the 958 boroughs in Pennsylvania, with a number of boroughs in the 26 or so counties where gas drilling is occurring,” according to Edward Knittel, senior director of education and sustainability with the Boroughs Association and education director for the Chrostwaite Institute. “We have been receiving many questions from our member boroughs about the impacts of natural gas drilling, but we don’t have many answers. This project brings together the available information under one website.”

“Not surprisingly, there has been scant investigation of impacts of natural gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing in areas such as population changes, housing patterns, income or poverty, and social services usage” said Robert Strauss, professor of Economics and Public Policy at Heinz College. “The majority of literature on this activity deals with economic, environmental, or public health impacts. And even these impacts are still under investigation” says Strauss.

About the Chrostwaite Institute:

The Chrostwaite Institute is based in Harrisburg and was created in 2008 by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) as a nonprofit, education and research arm of PSAB. The intent behind its creation was to carry forward the vision of Mr. Thomas Chrostwaite, who founded PSAB in 1911 and who promoted strong civic engagement.

The Institute’s activities are dedicated to improving areas such as government efficiency, investment in core communities, fiscal stability, transportation, water infrastructure, community and economic development. A core belief of the Institute is that Pennsylvania must foster local leadership capacity, promote civic engagement and counter the growing crisis of young talent exiting our Commonwealth in favor of other state economies.