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Maso-schist America

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FEATURE - The exploitation of shale gas in Texas becomes a gold rush, especially in Fort Worth, the first major U.S. city to allow it. Activists are trying to organize a response to serious nuisance and general indifference.

In Texas, citizens mobilized against the extraction of shale gas have the appearance of party-poopers. Even suspicious leftists have gone upwind against *progress*. In the mid-2000's, people saw a tempting deal: rent the subsurface of their property to the gas industry, against a check for several thousand dollars. In Fort Worth and elsewhere in the country, most individuals approached, have plunged into the deal. Many were quickly disappointed.

[Don Young](#) and [Sharon Wilson](#), whose struggle is detailed in this issue, were among the first to attempt to alert the public about the damage caused by the process of hydraulic fracturing, one technique for extracting this gas that is being

used today. The principle is simple: drill several thousand feet deep, then "break" the shale gas then trapping it open using a mixture of high pressure water, sand and chemicals.



A gas well in the course of drilling at Fort Worth, Texas

Safe and clean according to the industry, the technique is destructive to the environment, according to residents of the wells, which are sometimes drilled just a few miles away from homes, like in Fort Worth. Air and drinking water are tainted, toxic fumes and staggering water consumption are common in this city drilled on all sides and crisscrossed by a wild network of underground pipelines. Without much help from local authorities, largely funded by the gas industry and obsessed by work, there are complaints. The people, themselves, are impacted by the "unconventional gas" race and are dealing with serious health problems, as evidenced by [Jane Lynn](#).

In France, the sword of Damocles brandished by Total Energy

and others has never been so threatening, as the pleasant smell of methane escaping from underground whets the appetite for drilling. "*You must continue to to fight,*" insists the director of Gasland, **Josh Fox**, in the interview he gave us. To not do so would be irresponsible.



A sign of warning close to a gas pipeline, in Texas