

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2008

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**Northern Wayne County Community Association
to Host Meeting on Oil & Gas Drilling and Surface Owners' Rights**

The Northern Wayne County Community Association will be hosting a meeting on surface owners' rights and legislative options for expanding surface owner protections in West Virginia on Tuesday, October 28 at the old Buffalo High School cafeteria starting at 7 PM. Area landowners are encouraged to attend to learn more about their rights, to share their concerns and provide input on what they think needs to be done to protect property owners from industry abuses.

David McMahon, a public interest lawyer and founder of the WV Surface Owners' Rights Organization (WV SORO), will give a presentation with a question and answer period to follow. McMahon is also author of the *WV Surface Owners' Guide to Oil & Gas* which helps landowners assess their situation, outlines what rights they have and gives them step-by-step suggestions on what they should do when they get a notice of an application for a permit, what to do while the oil or gas well is being drilled, what to do after drilling is completed and what to do to get compensated for damages.

"Drilling permits in WV have skyrocketed from 900 per year to over 3,000 so we're hearing from lots of furious landowners who believe they've been run over," commented McMahon. "Recent court rulings on royalty shortages to mineral owners indicate that both groups are being abused by operators. Our organization is focused on educating landowners about their rights and pushing of the public policy changes needed to make these rights easier to enforce and to ensure landowners receive fair compensation for their losses and inconveniences."

Who: Northern Wayne County Community Association
What: An informational meeting to discuss surface owners' rights and changes needed to protect property owners from abuses by oil & gas drillers.
When: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7 PM
Where: Old Buffalo High School Cafeteria, Buffalo Creek Road, off State Rt. 75 across from Buffalo Elementary School
Contact: BJ Smith, Northern Wayne County Community Assoc., (304) 453-2033
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For more information on surface owners' rights visit www.wvsoro.org.

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