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## THE SHALE PLAY TODAY



News & Insights from the Marcellus & Utica Shales

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### Northeast Natural Energy, LLC Making History for the Future of Energy

Entrepreneurs are a special breed. The good ones have that special blend of vision, timing and risk tolerance most others lack. The really good ones find a way to use their special talents to make their communities a better place to live and work. Mike John is a really good entrepreneur.

As we all know, the shale plays across the United States have been game changers. This was recently noted by former United States Secretary of State, George Shultz, in a 2014 book he edited titled **Game Changers: Energy on the Move**. They have created wealth and opportunities unimaginable a decade ago, and history is being made in the Marcellus Shale every day. And thanks to Mike John, a truly unique initiative is underway near Morgantown, West Virginia.

The greater Morgantown area, the region, West Virginia and the nation all will benefit tremendously from the entrepreneurial instincts of Mike John. Mike is a Lewis County native, longtime oil and gas industry leader, and the founder and CEO of Northeast Natural Energy, LLC ("Northeast").

## In The News



### USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers Release Final Clean Water Rule

by [David L. Yaussy](#), [M. Katherine Crockett](#) and [Mark D. Clark](#)

On May 27, 2015, the USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers issued the rebranded Clean Water Rule. Initial review reveals the Rule constitutes a significant expansion of regulatory authority. By the agencies' own estimation, the Rule will result in an increase of positive jurisdictional determinations.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article prepared by our Environmental Practice Group.



### Regulators Remove Hurdles for Shell's Ethane Cracker Plant in Beaver County, Pa.

The Pennsylvania DEP has granted an air permit, stormwater discharge permit and a water obstruction and encroachment permit for Shell's potential petrochemical complex. While the company has not announced a final decision to build the plant, obtaining these permits has helped clear some hurdles.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



### WVU Weighs In on the EPA's Landmark Fracking Study

According to the EPA's latest study, fracking has

Mike has assembled a superb team of industry veterans along with the best and brightest newcomers to engage in a truly **groundbreaking public, private and academic partnership.**

Click [here](#) to read our entire article about Northeast and their partnership with West Virginia University, The Ohio State University and The United States Department of Energy.

not had a significant impact on water supplies. However, the agency concedes that poor handling and storage can cause issues. WVU experts explain that ongoing research to improve these technologies is essential to environmental stewardship.

Click [here](#) to read the entire statement.



### The Pipelines Are Coming and the Marcellus Shale Prepares

In just three years, the Marcellus Shale can expect to see 17 pipeline projects shipping natural gas from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. These pipelines should be able to handle a vast majority of increased need from the Midwest and New England areas, and also ship to eastern Canada and the South.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



### Coal and Natural Gas - Sharing Water and a Future

The Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has approved a bill that would allow the use of coal mine water to be used in the fracking process. The bill, if passed, would decrease the amount of fresh water needed by natural gas operators.

Click [here](#) to read about this potential partnership.



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