

Risk Management and Governance Issues in Shale Gas Development^A

*project convened by the National Research Council
Board on Environmental Change and Society*

Task and Work Plan

- The NRC was asked to appoint a committee to organize two workshops to examine the range of social and decision-making issues in risk characterization and governance related to gas shale development
- The committee was charged to adopt the systematic approach to risk characterization recommended in the 1996 NRC report, *Understanding Risk*: to “get the right science” by focusing on the concerns of the range of parties that are interested in the issue or may be affected by it

Task and Work Plan

- Committee members were selected for expertise on the risk and governance issues expected to arise in the project
- For the workshops, the committee invited experts to synthesize the state of knowledge on the key issues of concern, with discussion to follow regarding the state and limits of this knowledge
 - Ideas and opinions expressed are the presenters' own, and do not represent any NRC position

Committee Members

- Mitchell Small, *Carnegie Mellon University* (chair)
- Susan Christopherson, *Cornell University*
- Abbas Firoozabadi, *Reservoir Engineering Research Institute, and Yale University*
- Bernard D. Goldstein, *University of Pittsburgh*
- Robert B. Jackson, *Duke University*
- D. Warner North, *Northworks, Inc.*
- Aseem Prakash, *University of Washington*
- Barry Rabe, *University of Michigan*
- Susan Tierney, *The Analysis Group*
- Barbara Zielinska, *Desert Research Institute*

Committee expertise and balance

Many types of expertise

- hydraulic fracturing technology and risk management
- potential health, environmental, economic, and social effects
- environmental, economic, and social pathways that could link the industry to risks of concern
- environmental law and regulation
- theory and empirical evidence on institutions for governance of technological risks

Committee expertise and balance

Two types of balance

- Perspectives reflect a range of parties interested in and potentially affected by shale gas development
- Individuals with both *scientific knowledge* and *practical experience* related to shale gas development and associated regulatory and risk management institutions