



news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator  
330-677-4549 or [dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org](mailto:dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NewsNite Guests to Discuss Issues Involving Eastern Ohio Fracking

Northeast Ohio — Nov. 29, 2012 — Ohioans have varying, strong opinions about harvesting the oil and gas reserves deep underground in the eastern part of the state within the layers of Marcellus and Utica shales. **NewsNite** tackles the issue of hydraulic fracturing — or fracking — on this week's show, Friday, Nov. 30, at 8:30 p.m. on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1).

**NewsNite** host Jody Miller welcomes journalists Tim Rudell, senior reporter with WKSU, and Bob Downing, environmental, parks and outdoors staff writer at the Akron Beacon Journal, to discuss the ramifications of this evolving issue. Both journalists have covered the story in depth for several years, and they share their input as to whether the fracking phenomenon will be an economic boom, environmental bust or some combination of both.

The discussion ranges from the new technology enabling companies to drill horizontal wells to the hydraulic fracturing that releases the natural gas, oil and wet gases that are so lucrative. Rudell and Downing discuss state regulations for the leasing and drilling of wells, the environmental impacts of that drilling and the lack of local control over the exponential growth of this industry. They also touch on the use of injection wells as the way to dispose of the polluted waste from the drilling and whether we may be sacrificing our environmental future for energy independence.

For additional air dates for the program, or to watch it online following the broadcast, visit [WesternReservePBS.org](http://WesternReservePBS.org).

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## **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (5.13 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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