

# Memo

To: Global Gas Associates  
From: Susan L. Sakmar  
Date: January 17, 2012  
Re: 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Assignment - The Impact of Gasland  
Due Date: January 24, 2012

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## Overview:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) recently assessed the gas resources of Atlantis and discovered that Atlantis may have significant shale gas deposits. While much more work needs to be done to assess the commercial viability of the deposits, the Government of Atlantis is extremely encouraged by this development since the government has heard that shale gas could be a “game changer” for many countries.

Given the mystique that still surround Atlantis, the media coverage about the potentially significant shale gas resources of Atlantis has been intense. This intensity has brought heightened scrutiny from the environmental and “anti-fracking” community. In fact, a group of Hollywood stars (including George Clooney, Matt Damon, and Darrell Hannah) as well as recently went to Atlantis to meet with the Government to persuade them not to develop their shale gas resources. They were accompanied by Josh Fox, the director/creator of the Academy Award nominated documentary “Gasland.”

The group from Hollywood arranged for special screenings of Gasland throughout the entire island of Atlantis and given the small, highly concentrated population of Atlantis, the Government estimates that 90% of its citizenry saw Gasland.

As a result, there have been numerous protests against shale gas development with much of the public calling for a ban on shale gas development. While the Hollywood group was quite persuasive, the Government of Atlantis really wants to do the right thing for the country and has asked us to provide answers to the following questions.

## Assignment:

1. After watching Gasland, what are the main points of contention or concern raised in the film? Be as specific as you can.
2. How did the natural gas industry respond, if at all, to Gasland and the allegations raised in the film?
3. What happened to the people of Dimick? Is their water contaminated? Are there any lawsuits?
4. Based on your assessment of the contentions raised in Gasland and the industry response, what would you advise the Government of Atlantis? Should they proceed with shale gas development? Should they ban it? Do you need more information to decide? If so, what type of information would be helpful?

Your response should be prepared in memo format and limited to 2-4 pages. The short length of the written assignment requires that your answers be brief and to the point but you will have the opportunity in class to elaborate on your responses.