

# Group of Salem area residents file suit over fracking operations

by Matt Harvey

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CLARKSBURG — Twenty-four Salem area residents have sued Antero Resources Corp. and a leasing partner, claiming the Denver energy company's operations have substantially hindered their quality of life.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the residents by the Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler law firm of Charleston. Defendants are Antero Resources, Antero Resources Blueston and Hall Drilling LLC.

"Since living in Harrison County, the Plaintiffs had come to expect and enjoy the quiet, fresh air, fresh water, privacy, darkness of night and overall peacefulness of the area," the lawsuit contends.

Antero's hydraulic fracturing ventures have ruined water wells, damaged roads and homes (the latter through vibration) and created excessive traffic, light, noise and diesel fumes, the lawsuit alleges.

Additionally, some of the defendants' employees have harassed or menaced the residents, the lawsuit alleges.

The plaintiffs live on Stillhouse Road, Cherry Camp Road, Rainbow Ranch Road and Haymond Woods Road. They are requesting a jury trial seeking damages.

A call to Antero Resources' Denver headquarters went

into an answering service late Thursday afternoon. A message left with an Antero employee at the company's Bridgeport office wasn't immediately returned.