



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
**Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force**

**Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force  
Final Report Presentation  
February 18, 2016**

---

**John Quigley, Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection**

---

**Dial-in number for Audio: 1-415-655-0003**

**Access code: 660 594 880**

**WebEx Technical Support: 1-866-229-3239**

# Background

- 2005: Horizontal drilling methods combined with high-volume hydraulic fracturing techniques make possible the capture of natural gas from Pennsylvania's shale deposits
- 2008: Pennsylvania's natural gas production begins to increase dramatically
- 2014: More than four trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced in Pennsylvania
- 2014: Pennsylvania becomes second-largest supplier of natural gas in U.S.

# Moving Natural Gas

- Drilling has far outpaced the development of the infrastructure needed to get that gas to markets
- Almost 30% of the wells drilled in Pennsylvania (@2,400) shut in because pipelines from the well to end users have not caught up with pace of drilling
- In the next decade, Pennsylvania will undergo a substantial pipeline infrastructure build-out to transport gas and related byproducts from thousands of wells throughout the state
- The result will impact communities and the environment in every PA county

# Pipeline Location Legalities

- Location of most pipelines transporting oil or natural gas in Pennsylvania determined by transactions between private parties governed by common law property and contract principles
- Landowners may also be required to allow pipeline development on their property when the pipeline is considered to provide an important public benefit

# Pipeline Location Legalities

- Federal Natural Gas Act authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to review applications for proposed interstate natural gas transmission pipelines, and grant certificates of public convenience and necessity when it determines the proposed pipeline provides important public benefits
- When FERC grants such a certificate, pipeline company has the right to obtain the property needed to construct the pipeline through condemnation proceedings if the company is unable to negotiate the purchase of the necessary property rights from the landowner

# Pipeline Location Legalities

- Pipeline infrastructure development governed by a complicated matrix of federal and state laws and regulations, county plans, and local ordinances
- Multiple agencies involved in permitting and overseeing siting, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure
- Challenge to ensuring the reduction of impact, and responsible and safe transmission: *No single federal or state agency is responsible for pipeline permitting*

# Cumulative Impacts of Complexity

- Permits may not always be reviewed for the cumulative and long-term impacts at a landscape level
  - Chosen routes do not necessarily avoid sensitive lands, habitats, and natural features
  - Impacts to natural and cultural resources, landowners, and communities along them not always avoided, minimized or mitigated
  - Individual decisions can accumulate into a much broader and longer impact on the citizens and the lands of a community, county or watershed

# Need For a Task Force

- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf:
  - Created Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force in May 2015
  - Appointed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary John Quigley to serve as the Pennsylvania Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force (PITF) Chairman
  - Appointed 48 Task Force members in July 2015



# Task Force Charge

- Purpose of the Task Force is to define a series of best practices and recommendations to:
  - Amplify and engage in meaningful public participation
  - Develop long-term operations and maintenance plans to ensure pipeline safety and integrity
  - Employ construction methods that reduce environmental and community impact
  - Maximize opportunities for predictable and efficient permitting
  - Plan, site and route pipelines in ways to avoid or reduce environmental and community impacts
  - Enhance workforce/economic development

# Task Force Composition

- Task Force included representatives from state agencies, General Assembly, federal and local governments, pipeline and natural gas industries, and environmental groups
- Informed by 12 workgroups:
  - Agriculture
  - Conservation and Natural Resources
  - County Government
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Environmental Protection
  - Historical/Cultural/Tribal
  - Local Government
  - Natural Gas End Use
  - Pipeline Safety and Integrity
  - Public Participation
  - Siting and Routing
  - Workforce/Economic Development

# Process

- The Task Force conducted seven public meetings streamed live via the Internet
- Each meeting included an opportunity for the public to comment
- Citizens spoke of their personal experiences with the industry and concerns about natural gas drilling

# Outcome

- The twelve workgroups prepared 184 recommendations
- All of them important, with valuable information
- Thus, all included in this report, grouped into the six charges
- Task Force also prioritized top priorities for the Commonwealth to assess for possible implementation

# Top Recommendations

- Amplify and engage in meaningful public participation
  - Establish early coordination with local landowners and lessors
  - Educate landowners on pipeline development issues

# Top Recommendations

- Develop long-term operations and maintenance plans to ensure pipeline safety and integrity
  - Train emergency responders
  - Enhance emergency response training for responder agencies

# Top Recommendations

- Employ construction methods that reduce environmental impact
  - Minimize impacts of stream crossings
  - Use best available combination of technologies to protect exceptional value and high quality waters

# Top Recommendations

- Maximize opportunities for predictable and efficient permitting
  - Ensure adequate agency staffing for reviewing pipeline infrastructure projects
  - Implement electronic permit submissions for Chapters 102 and 105



# Top Recommendations

- Plan, site and route pipelines to avoid/reduce environmental and community impacts
  - Expand PA1Call for all classes of pipelines
  - Identify barriers to sharing rights-of-ways

# Top Recommendations

- Enhance workforce/economic development
  - Attract military veterans to the energy workforce
  - Enhance science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education

# Next Steps

- Next step: Recommendations in this report that fall within the purview of Commonwealth agencies should be further assessed and evaluated for possible implementation
- Industry and other agencies should do the same for recommendation that lie within their purviews

# Caveats

- Some recommendations already required by law or regulation
- Fact that they were identified by workgroups shows:
  - Stakeholder education and engagement is necessary
  - Regulatory requirements not always followed, and enforcement is required
- Some recommendations already embraced and practiced by leading companies, leading counties, and in state and federal agencies
  - However, not universal
  - Raising the bar for industry, government agencies, communities, and stakeholders is vision Governor Wolf had in convening Task Force

# Definition of Success

- Success of Task Force and Report:
  - This is first compilation of the reality, challenges and opportunities from natural gas transport via pipeline
  - It's not meant to be final word, but the start of a longer conversation
  - Should promote sustained collaboration of stakeholders and facilitate the responsible development of pipeline infrastructure in the Commonwealth
  - Should generate follow-on work across state and local governments, and in company board rooms, and in communities, to assess and implement the recommendations contained in this report

# DEP Mission

*“To protect Pennsylvania’s air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.”*