

Act 13 – Impact Fees for Plugging Abandoned/Orphan Wells

The 2012 Oil and Gas Act (Act 13) Marcellus Legacy Fund, referenced in Section 2315 (a.1) (1) (ii), establishes funding for orphan or abandoned oil and gas well plugging. Information and an application for this program can be found at: <http://community.newpa.com/programs/orphan-abandoned-well-plugging-program-oawp/>

The Marcellus Legacy Fund is administered the Commonwealth Financing Authority, who approves applications to fund orphan or abandoned well plugging projects. Review of these projects and technical oversight is provided by the Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program (OAWP). Hundreds of thousands of oil and gas wells have been drilled in the state since 1859. The OAWP provides a mechanism to plug abandoned and orphan wells that have the potential to cause health, safety or environmental concerns.

Projects involve activities such as cleaning out and plugging of abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells; and the installation of stray gas mitigation and well venting systems.

There is a cap of \$250,000 allotted for any project.

Eligible recipients include Municipalities, Councils of Governments, For-Profit Businesses, Institutions of Higher Education, Watershed Organizations, and other Authorized Organizations.
