

## **Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission**

### *Report Summary*

#### **A Comprehensive, Strategic Plan.**

- 96 Recommendations outlining a comprehensive, strategic plan for the responsible development of natural gas drilling in the Commonwealth.
- Unanimously approved by the commission on Friday, July 15, 2011.
- Outlines first major update of Oil and Gas Act in nearly three decades.
- Culmination of four months of work by commission.
  - 20 public meetings.
  - 60 expert presentations.
  - 100 citizens offered public presentations.
  - 650 emails and letters from public.
  - On-site visit to well sites and local businesses in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

#### **Stronger Regulations for Drilling.**

- Increase bonding amounts from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and more for deeper wells.
- Up to \$250,000 for blanket bonds.
- Triple well setback distance from streams, ponds, and other bodies of water from 100 to 300 feet.
- Increase setback distance from private water wells from 200 to 500 feet and to 1,000 feet for public water systems.
- Expand operator's presumed liability for impairing water quality from 1,000 ft to 2,500 feet from a well, and extends the duration of presumed liability from 6 months to 12 months.
- Require minimum 24-hour notification before commencing certain well site activities.
- Post critical information online, including violations, penalties and remedial actions.
- Expand public disclosure and information through enhanced well production and completion reporting.

#### **Tougher Penalties for Violators.**

- Double penalties for civil violations from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- Double daily penalties from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a day.
- Make penalties for criminal violations consistent with other environmental statutes.
- Enhance DEP's ability to suspend, revoke or deny drilling permits for failure to comply.

### **Enhance Pennsylvania's Energy Independence.**

- Develop "Green Corridors" in Pennsylvania for natural gas-fueled vehicles with filling stations at least every 50 miles and within two miles of designated highways.
- Include natural gas vehicles in Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program.
- Provide incentives for the conversion of mass transit and school bus fleets to natural gas.
- Provide incentives for intra-state natural gas pipelines to encourage in-state use and help lower costs for Pennsylvanians.
- Enhance air quality through increased use of natural gas for transportation.

### **Create Jobs for Pennsylvanians.**

- Build regional business parks in strategic locations to maximize job-creation potential.
- Evaluate future rail needs to support industry and reduce need for truck traffic.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to maximize "downstream" use of natural gas and its by-products, such as in chemical manufacturing, plastics, etc.
- Develop a strategy to help Pennsylvania companies to supply natural gas industry with the products they need.

### **Train Pennsylvanians for Natural Gas Jobs.**

- Work with industry to develop a standard curriculum to provide proper training.
- Develop job-training assistance and certification programs for jobs in the industry.
- Develop educational material on natural gas for use in grade and high schools.
- Partner with groups like Hiring Our Heroes and Troops to Roughnecks.
- Develop a gas safety inspector training facility in PA. (There is currently only one in the nation located in Oklahoma.)

### **Improve Infrastructure.**

- Create a one-stop shop for pipeline permitting process to better coordinate review and ensure thorough oversight.
- Evaluate rail freight facilities and capabilities to relieve burden on roads and bridges.
- Evaluate air service and infrastructure needs among regional airports.
- Amend state law to allow location of energy and utility infrastructure within PENNDOT's right-of-way.
- Expand PA Natural Resource Inventory on-line tool to accommodate linear projects longer than 15,000 feet. (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/>)

**Protect Public Health.**

- Create a population-based health registry.
  - Collect and evaluate clinical data from health care providers.
  - Monitor citizens living near drilling sites.
- Create a system for timely and thorough investigation of complaints.
- Establish education programs about potential impacts on health.

**Promote Public Safety.**

- Assign 911 addresses and GPS coordinates for well sites.
- Develop standardized emergency response plans.
- Provide comprehensive training for local responders.
- Create regional safety task forces.
- Establish a specialized team of emergency responders.

**Protect Natural Resources.**

- Establish an advisory committee within DCNR to discuss future development of state forest and park land.
- Document and monitor effects of industry on plants, forests, wildlife, habitat, water, soil and recreational resources.
- Review and regularly update best management practices for well site construction and operation.
- Prevent spread of invasive plant species.

**Help Communities Deal with Impact.**

- Recommend enactment or authorization to impose a fee to mitigate to uncompensated impacts caused to communities by natural gas development.
- Any fee should recognize on-going nature of certain impacts.
- Attributable impacts identified by the advisory commission include:
  - Environmental remediation.
  - Public health evaluation and emergency response.
  - Increased demand on social services.
  - Infrastructure improvements.
  - Natural resource agency administration and oversight.