



# Real Natural Gas Impacts: New Jobs in Pennsylvania

The dialogue about a potential impact fee on natural gas extraction from the Marcellus and other shale formations must be based on facts, and acknowledge that the industry is bringing new jobs and economic growth across the Commonwealth, as well as clean, domestic energy for the benefit of the entire country.

The Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association supports this type of rational and balanced dialogue and looks forward to providing the facts that ensure the contributions now being made by the natural gas industry are recognized by Pennsylvania's legislative and executive branches of government.

Job growth in areas of Pennsylvania that have struggled economically for decades is one of many positive impacts being realized from drilling activity, as evidenced in the declining unemployment rates throughout the Marcellus Shale counties:

- Unemployment rates in counties with drilling activity are consistently below the U.S. average of 9.2 percent (June 2011), with Bradford County (906 wells drilled between 2007-2010) having one of the lowest unemployment rates in Pennsylvania (5.9 percent, June 2011).
- Tioga County's (1,033 wells between 2007-2010) unemployment rate plummeted 3.3 percent in just two years, while neighboring Potter County (137 wells in the same period) dropped 2.1 percent (2009-2011).
- Cameron County, whose powdered-metals industry was hit hard by the global economic recession, saw its unemployment rate drop 7.1 percent in two years, with many businesses providing ancillary services to industry with local workers.
- The average annual wage for "core" industry employees in Pennsylvania is \$73,150, and the average wage in supporting industries is \$61,871 – both far higher than the statewide average of \$45,747 (Dept. of Labor & Industry, Aug. 2011).

These are real jobs that are putting Pennsylvanians back to work and producing the clean natural gas that is the Keystone to America's Energy Future. Keeping the discussion about a potential impact fee focused on the facts can maintain Pennsylvania's competitive edge in fostering the growth of this important contributor to our economic future.



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