



# Real Natural Gas Impacts: Mitigating Local Concerns

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.

The natural gas industry recognizes the impact on local resources of drilling activity and has assumed responsibility to work with communities to address these impacts. That most of these impacts are now being mitigated by operators across the state is not recognized in many reviews of drilling activity. Consider:

- Following drilling activity, roads in local communities are restored to standards better than their original condition. Many roads are improved even before development starts to accommodate increased use from heavy trucks and maintained throughout the drilling process. This work is completed by local construction firms using local employees.
- The withdrawal of surface water is permitted by the state Department of Environmental Protection, along with federal interstate river basin commissions, and those withdrawals are stopped when flow levels become a concern. Some municipal water authorities and other suppliers are selling excess water capacity to operators, providing additional funds for improvements to these water systems. Finally, no flowback or produced water is being accepted by municipal wastewater treatment systems.
- More than 2,500 local emergency responders have already participated in natural gas response and safety training through the State Fire Commissioner's office, with additional training provided at the local level through partnerships among the industry, fire departments and emergency response service providers. The industry is fully committed to ensuring emergency personnel in Pennsylvania receive the best safety and response training possible.

PIOGA supports the evaluation of real and uncompensated impacts being experienced by local communities as part of the discussion about a potential natural gas impact fee on Marcellus and other shale natural gas development. Impacts currently being addressed through cooperative agreements between governments and producers, however, must also be recognized in this debate.



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