
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1950 Session
of
2011

Report of the Committee of Conference

To the Members of the House of Representatives and Senate:

We, the undersigned, Committee of Conference on the part of the Senate and House of Representatives for the purpose of considering House Bill No. 1950, entitled:

~~"An act amending Titles 27 (Environmental Resources) and 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, * * *.~~
AMENDING TITLE 58 (OIL AND GAS) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, * * * AND MAKING A RELATED REPEAL,"

respectfully submit the following bill as our report:

BRIAN L. ELLIS

DAVID L. REED

(Committee on the part of the House of Representatives.)

JOSEPH B. SCARNATI

MARY JO WHITE

(Committee on the part of the Senate.)

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AN ACT

Amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for an unconventional gas well fee and for transfers from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund; providing for distribution of fees and transfers; establishing the Natural Gas Energy Development Program; consolidating the Oil and Gas Act with modifications and additions relating to definitions, well permits, permit objections, comments by municipalities and storage operators, well location restrictions, well site restoration, protection of water supplies, notification to public drinking water systems, containment for unconventional wells, transportation records regarding wastewater fluids, corrosion control requirements, gathering lines, well control emergency response, hydraulic fracturing chemical discharge requirements, bonding, air containment emissions, public nuisances, enforcement orders, well control emergency cost recovery, penalties, civil penalties, inspection and production of materials, witnesses, depositions and rights of entry, third party liability and inspection reports; providing for local ordinances relating to oil and gas operations and for responsibility for fee; making an appropriation; and making a related repeal.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding parts to read:

PART I

(RESERVED)

PART II

OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT

Chapter

23. Unconventional Gas Well Fee

25. Oil and Gas Lease Fund

27. Natural Gas Energy Development Program

CHAPTER 23

UNCONVENTIONAL GAS WELL FEE

Sec.

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16 § 2301. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Average annual price of natural gas." The arithmetic mean
21 of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) settled price for
22 the near-month contract, as reported by the Wall Street Journal
23 for the last trading day of each month of a calendar year for
24 the 12-month period ending December 31.

25 "Company." An entity doing business within this Commonwealth
26 and subject to tax under Article III, IV or VI of the act of
27 March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of
28 1971.

29 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

30 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of

1 the Commonwealth.

2 "Eligible applicant." Any of the following:

3 (1) A county, municipality, council of governments,
4 watershed organization, institution of higher education or
5 nonprofit organization.

6 (2) An authorized organization as defined in 27 Pa.C.S.
7 § 6103 (relating to definitions).

8 (3) A company, other than a producer.

9 "Fee." The unconventional gas well fee imposed under section
10 2302 (relating to unconventional gas well fee).

11 "Fund." The Unconventional Gas Well Fund.

12 "Highway mileage." The number of miles of public roads and
13 streets most recently certified by the Department of
14 Transportation as eligible for distribution of liquid fuels
15 funds under the act of June 1, 1956 (1955 P.L.1944, No.655),
16 referred to as the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law.

17 "Municipality." A borough, city, town or township.

18 "Natural gas." A fossil fuel consisting of a mixture of
19 hydrocarbon gases, primarily methane, and possibly including
20 ethane, propane, butane, pentane, carbon dioxide, oxygen,
21 nitrogen and hydrogen sulfide and other gas species. The term
22 includes natural gas from oil fields known as associated gas or
23 casing head gas, natural gas fields known as nonassociated gas,
24 coal beds, shale beds and other formations. The term does not
25 include coal bed methane.

26 "Number of spud unconventional gas wells." The most recent
27 numerical count of spud unconventional gas wells on the
28 inventory maintained and provided to the commission by the
29 department as of the last day of each month.

30 "Population." As follows:

1 (1) Population of the Commonwealth and population of a
2 county shall be determined using the United States Census
3 Bureau's most recently released Annual Estimates of the
4 Resident Population for Counties of Pennsylvania.

5 (2) Population of a municipality shall be determined
6 using the United States Census Bureau's most recently
7 released Annual Estimates for the Resident Population for
8 Incorporated Places in Pennsylvania.

9 (3) Population of municipalities not included in the
10 report referenced under paragraph (2) shall be determined
11 using the United States Census Bureau's most recently
12 released Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for
13 Minor Civil Divisions in Pennsylvania.

14 "Producer." A person or its subsidiary, affiliate or holding
15 company that holds a permit or other authorization to engage in
16 the business of severing natural gas for sale, profit or
17 commercial use from an unconventional gas well in this
18 Commonwealth. The term shall not include a producer that severs
19 natural gas from a site used to store natural gas that did not
20 originate from the site.

21 "Spud." The actual start of drilling of an unconventional
22 gas well.

23 "Stripper well." An unconventional gas well incapable of
24 producing more than 90,000 cubic feet of gas per day during any
25 calendar month, including production from all zones and
26 multilateral well bores at a single well, without regard to
27 whether the production is separately metered.

28 "Unconventional formation." A geological shale formation
29 existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic
30 equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally

1 cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes
2 except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by
3 hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well
4 bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the
5 well bore.

6 "Unconventional gas well." A bore hole drilled or being
7 drilled for the purpose of or to be used for the production of
8 natural gas from an unconventional formation.

9 "Vertical gas well." An unconventional gas well which
10 utilizes hydraulic fracture treatment through a single vertical
11 well bore and produces natural gas in quantities greater than
12 that of a stripper well.

13 § 2302. Unconventional gas well fee.

14 (a) General rule.--The governing body of a county that has a
15 spud unconventional gas well located within its borders may
16 elect whether to impose a fee on unconventional gas wells that
17 have been spud in the county.

18 (a.1) Passage of ordinance.--Within 60 days after the
19 effective date of this section, the governing body of a county
20 under subsection (a) may adopt an ordinance to impose an
21 unconventional gas well fee. The governing body of a county must
22 notify the commission and give public notice of its intent to
23 adopt the ordinance.

24 (a.2) County ordinance.--The ordinance imposing a fee under
25 subsection (a.1) shall be clear and in language that is readily
26 understandable by a layperson and shall be in the following
27 form:

28 The county of (insert name) hereby imposes an unconventional
29 gas well fee on each unconventional gas well spud in this
30 county.

1 (a.3) Prohibition.--

2 (1) A county subject to this section, in which the
3 governing body does not adopt an ordinance imposing an
4 unconventional gas well fee within 60 days of the effective
5 date of this section shall be prohibited from receiving funds
6 under sections 2314(d)(1) (relating to distribution of fee)
7 and 2315(a.1)(3) and (5) (relating to Statewide initiatives).

8 (2) The prohibition on receiving funds shall remain in
9 effect until the county adopts an ordinance imposing an
10 unconventional gas well fee. The prohibition shall expire and
11 funds may be received for the calendar year following the
12 adoption of an ordinance imposing the fee under this section.

13 (a.4) Alternate imposition.--

14 (1) If the governing body of a county does not impose an
15 unconventional gas well fee under subsection (a), the
16 municipalities in the county may compel the imposition of an
17 unconventional gas well fee on each unconventional gas well
18 spud in the county by adopting resolutions under paragraphs
19 (2), (3) and (4).

20 (2) Following 60 days but not more than 120 days after
21 the effective date of this section, if the governing bodies
22 of at least half of the municipalities located in a county or
23 municipalities representing at least 50% of the population of
24 the county adopt resolutions to impose unconventional gas
25 well fees on all unconventional gas wells spud in the county,
26 the fee shall take effect. If a resolution is adopted, a copy
27 of the resolution shall be transmitted to the governing body
28 of the county and the commission. The governing body of a
29 municipality that is located in more than one county shall
30 transmit a copy of a resolution adopted under this paragraph

1 to the governing body of each county in which the
2 municipality is located.

3 (3) The transmittal of resolutions by governing bodies
4 under paragraph (2) shall constitute an imposition of the fee
5 in that county. The population of a municipality that is
6 located in more than one county shall be determined
7 separately for each county on the basis of the municipality's
8 population within each county.

9 (4) Resolutions adopted under this subsection must be
10 framed in the following form:

11 The (insert name) in the county of (insert name) hereby
12 resolves to have the county impose an unconventional gas
13 well fee on each unconventional gas well spud in the
14 county.

15 (5) A municipality which is located in a county that
16 does not adopt an ordinance imposing an unconventional gas
17 well fee and which does not adopt a resolution under
18 paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) shall be prohibited from
19 receiving funds under section 2314(d).

20 (b) Components.--The fee adopted under subsection (a), (a.1)
21 or (a.4) is imposed on every producer and shall apply to
22 unconventional gas wells spud in this Commonwealth regardless of
23 when spudding occurred. Unconventional gas wells spud before
24 the fee is imposed shall be considered to be spud in the
25 calendar year prior to the imposition of the fee for purposes of
26 determining the fee under this subsection. Prior to adjustment
27 under subsection (c), the fee for each unconventional gas well
28 shall be determined as follows:

29 (1) Year one:

30 (i) If the average annual price of natural gas is

1 not more than \$2.25, the fee shall be \$40,000 for the
2 calendar year in which the unconventional gas well is
3 spud.

4 (ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
5 greater than \$2.25 and less than \$3.00, the fee shall be
6 \$45,000 for the calendar year in which the unconventional
7 gas well is spud.

8 (iii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
9 greater than \$2.99 and less than \$5.00, the fee shall be
10 \$50,000 for the calendar year in which the unconventional
11 gas well is spud.

12 (iv) If the average annual price of natural gas is
13 greater than \$4.99 and less than \$6.00, the fee shall be
14 \$55,000 for the calendar year in which the unconventional
15 gas well is spud.

16 (v) If the average annual price of natural gas is
17 more than \$5.99, the fee shall be \$60,000 for the
18 calendar year in which the unconventional gas well is
19 spud.

20 (2) Year two:

21 (i) If the average annual price of natural gas is
22 not more than \$2.25, the fee shall be \$30,000 for the
23 calendar year following the year in which the
24 unconventional gas well is spud.

25 (ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
26 greater than \$2.25 and less than \$3.00, the fee shall be
27 \$35,000 for the calendar year following the year in which
28 the unconventional gas well is spud.

29 (iii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
30 greater than \$2.99 and less than \$5.00, the fee shall be

1 \$40,000 for the calendar year following the year in which
2 the unconventional gas well is spud.

3 (iv) If the average annual price of natural gas is
4 greater than \$4.99 and less than \$6.00, the fee shall be
5 \$45,000 for the calendar year following the year in which
6 the unconventional gas well is spud.

7 (v) If the average annual price of natural gas is
8 more than \$5.99, the fee shall be \$55,000 for the
9 calendar year following the year in which the
10 unconventional gas well is spud.

11 (3) Year three:

12 (i) If the average annual price of natural gas is
13 not more than \$2.25, the fee shall be \$25,000 for the
14 second calendar year following the year in which the
15 unconventional gas well is spud.

16 (ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
17 greater than \$2.25 and less than \$3.00, the fee shall be
18 \$30,000 for the second calendar year following the year
19 in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

20 (iii) If the average annual price of natural gas is
21 greater than \$2.99 and less than \$5.00, the fee shall be
22 \$30,000 for the second calendar year following the year
23 in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

24 (iv) If the average annual price of natural gas is
25 greater than \$4.99 and less than \$6.00, the fee shall be
26 \$40,000 for the second calendar year following the year
27 in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

28 (v) If the average annual price of natural gas is
29 more than \$5.99, the fee shall be \$50,000 for the second
30 calendar year following the year in which the

unconventional gas well is spud.

(4) Years 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10:

(i) If the average annual price of natural gas is not more than \$2.25, the fee shall be \$10,000 for the third through ninth calendar years following the year in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

(ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is greater than \$2.25 and less than \$3.00, the fee shall be \$15,000 for the third through ninth calendar years following the year in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

(iii) If the average annual price of natural gas is greater than \$2.99, the fee shall be \$20,000 for the third through ninth calendar years following the year in which the unconventional gas well is spud.

(5) Years 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15:

(i) If the average annual price of natural gas is less than \$3.00, the fee shall be \$5,000 for the 10th through 14th calendar years following the year in which the unconventional well is spud.

(ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is greater than \$2.99, the fee shall be \$10,000 for the 10th through 14th calendar years following the year in which the unconventional well is spud.

(6) For purposes of this subsection, the fee shall be determined using the average annual price of natural gas for the calendar year in which the fee is imposed.

(b.1) Nonproducing unconventional gas wells.--If a spud unconventional gas well begins paying the fee imposed under this section and is subsequently capped or does not produce natural

1 gas in quantities greater than that of a stripper well within
2 two years after paying the initial fee, then the fee shall be
3 suspended:

4 (1) The fee shall be reinstated for a calendar year
5 during which the unconventional gas well produces natural gas
6 in quantities greater than that of a stripper well.

7 (2) Each calendar year during which a fee is suspended
8 shall not be considered a calendar year following spud for
9 purposes of determining the amount of the fee under
10 subsection (b).

11 (c) Annual adjustment.--Beginning January 1, 2013, the
12 commission shall annually adjust the fee amounts under
13 subsection (b) to reflect any upward changes in the Consumer
14 Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the Pennsylvania, New
15 Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area in the preceding 12 months
16 and shall immediately submit the adjusted fee amount to the
17 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication as a notice in the
18 Pennsylvania Bulletin. The fee shall be adjusted by multiplying
19 the annual fee amount by any percentage increase to the Consumer
20 Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the Pennsylvania, New
21 Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area, rounded to the nearest \$100.
22 The resultant product shall be added to the fee amount and the
23 sum shall become the new annual fee amount under subsection (b).
24 The annual adjustment under this subsection shall take effect if
25 the total number of unconventional gas wells spud in the
26 adjustment year exceeds the total number of unconventional gas
27 wells spud in the prior year.

28 (d) Restimulated unconventional gas wells.--

29 (1) An unconventional gas well which after restimulation
30 qualifies as a stripper well shall not be subject to this

1 subsection.

2 (2) The year in which the restimulation occurs shall be
3 considered the first year of spudding for purposes of
4 imposing the fee under this section if:

5 (i) a producer restimulates a previously stimulated
6 unconventional gas well following the tenth year after
7 being spud by:

8 (A) hydraulic fracture treatments;

9 (B) using additional multilateral well bores;

10 (C) drilling deeper into an unconventional
11 formation; or

12 (D) other techniques to expose more of the
13 formation to the well bore; and

14 (ii) the restimulation results in a substantial
15 increase in production.

16 (3) As used in this subsection, the term "substantial
17 increase in production" means an increase in production
18 amounting to more than 90,000 cubic feet of gas per day
19 during a calendar month.

20 (e) Cessation.--Payments of the fee shall cease upon
21 certification to the department by the producer that the
22 unconventional gas well has ceased production and has been
23 plugged according to the regulations established by the
24 department.

25 (f) Vertical unconventional gas well fee.--The fee for a
26 vertical unconventional gas well shall be 20% of the fee
27 established in subsections (b) and (c), except that the fee
28 under subsection (b) (5) shall not apply.

29 § 2303. Administration.

30 (a) Fee due date.--

1 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the fee
2 imposed under this chapter shall be due by April 1, 2013, and
3 each April 1 thereafter. The fee shall become delinquent if
4 not remitted to the commission on the reporting date.

5 (2) For wells spud before January 1, 2012, a fee imposed
6 under this chapter shall be due by September 1, 2012.

7 (b) Report.--By September 1, 2012, and April 1 of each year
8 thereafter, each producer shall submit payment of the fee to the
9 commission and a report on a form prescribed by the commission
10 for the previous calendar year. The report shall include the
11 following:

12 (1) The number of spud unconventional gas wells of a
13 producer in each municipality within each county that has
14 imposed a fee under this chapter.

15 (2) The date that each unconventional gas well
16 identified under paragraph (1) was spud or ceased the
17 production of natural gas.

18 (c) Costs of commission.--

19 (1) The commission may impose an annual administrative
20 charge not to exceed \$50 per spud unconventional gas well on
21 each producer, to be paid with the submission under
22 subsection (a), to pay for the actual costs of the commission
23 to administer and enforce this chapter.

24 (2) Within 30 days of the effective date of this
25 subsection the commission shall estimate its expenditures
26 through June 30, 2012, that will be directly attributable to
27 the administration and enforcement of this chapter. The
28 commission shall subtract the amount of the administrative
29 charges imposed under paragraph (1) and assess any remaining
30 balance on all producers subject to the administrative charge

1 in proportion to the number of wells owned by each producer.
2 Producers shall pay the assessments within 30 days of receipt
3 of notice from the commission. The amount of the assessment
4 may be challenged by a producer consistent with 66 Pa.C.S. §
5 510(c), (d) and (e) (relating to assessment for regulatory
6 expenses upon public utilities). Any collections that exceed
7 any of the following shall be used to offset the
8 administrative charges or other funds received for fiscal
9 year 2012-2013:

10 (i) The budget amount approved by the General
11 Assembly and the Governor for administration and
12 enforcement of this chapter and Chapter 33 (relating to
13 local ordinances relating to oil and gas operations).

14 (ii) The actual expenditures directly attributable
15 to the administration and enforcement of this chapter and
16 Chapter 33.

17 (3) By June 30, 2012, and each June 30 thereafter, the
18 commission shall estimate its expenditures for the next
19 fiscal year that will be directly attributable to the
20 administration and enforcement of this chapter. After
21 subtracting any annual administrative charges imposed under
22 paragraph (1), amounts received by the commission under
23 section 2314(c.1)(2) (relating to distribution of fee) and
24 any amounts collected during the prior fiscal year that
25 exceeded actual expenditures directly attributable to the
26 administration and enforcement of this chapter, the
27 commission shall assess the remaining balance on all
28 producers subject to the unconventional gas well fee in
29 proportion to the number of wells owned by each producer.
30 Producers shall pay the assessments within 30 days of the

1 receipt of notice from the commission. The amount of the
2 assessment may be challenged by a producer consistent with 66
3 Pa.C.S. § 510(c), (d) and (e). Any collections that exceed
4 any of the following shall be used to offset administrative
5 charges or assessments for the next fiscal year:

6 (i) The budget amount approved by the General
7 Assembly and the Governor for administration and
8 enforcement of this chapter and Chapter 33.

9 (ii) Actual expenditures directly attributable to
10 the administration and enforcement of this chapter and
11 Chapter 33.

12 § 2304. Well information.

13 (a) List.--Within 14 days of the effective date of this
14 section, the department shall provide the commission and, upon
15 request, a county, with a list of all spud unconventional gas
16 wells from the department. The department shall update the list
17 and provide it to the commission on a monthly basis.

18 (b) Updates.--A producer subject to the fee shall notify the
19 commission of the following within 30 days after a calendar
20 month in which the change occurs:

21 (1) The spudding of an unconventional gas well.

22 (1.1) The initiation of production at an unconventional
23 gas well.

24 (2) The removal of an unconventional gas well from
25 production.

26 § 2305. Duties of department.

27 (a) Confirmation of payment.--Prior to issuing a permit to
28 drill an unconventional gas well in this Commonwealth, the
29 department shall determine whether the producer has paid all
30 fees owed for an existing unconventional gas well under section

1 2302 (relating to unconventional gas well fee).

2 (b) Prohibition.--The department shall not issue a permit to
3 drill an unconventional gas well until all unconventional gas
4 well fees owed under section 2302 that are not in dispute have
5 been paid to the commission.

6 (c) Payment of fees.--The commission shall provide the
7 department with information necessary to determine that the
8 producer has paid all unconventional gas well fees owed for an
9 unconventional gas well under section 2302.

10 § 2306. (Reserved).

11 § 2307. Commission.

12 (a) Powers.--The commission shall have the authority to make
13 all inquiries and determinations necessary to calculate and
14 collect the fee, administrative charges or assessments imposed
15 under this chapter, including, if applicable, interest and
16 penalties.

17 (b) Notice.--If the commission determines that the
18 unconventional gas well fee has not been paid in full, it may
19 issue a notice of the amount due and demand for payment and
20 shall set forth the basis for the determination.

21 (c) Address.--Notice of failure to pay the correct fee shall
22 be sent to the producer via certified mail.

23 (d) Time period.--Except as set forth in subsection (e), the
24 commission may challenge the amount of a fee paid within three
25 years after the date the report under section 2303(b) (relating
26 to administration) is filed.

27 (e) Intent.--If no report is filed or a producer files a
28 false or fraudulent report with the intent to evade the fee, an
29 assessment of the amount owed may be made at any time.

30 § 2308. Enforcement.

1 (a) Assessment.--The commission shall assess interest on any
2 delinquent fee at the rate determined under section 2307(a)
3 (relating to commission).

4 (b) Penalty.--In addition to the assessed interest under
5 subsection (a), if a producer fails to make timely payment of
6 the fee, there shall be added to the amount of the fee due a
7 penalty of 5% of the amount of the fee if failure to file a
8 timely payment is for not more than one month, with an
9 additional 5% penalty for each additional month, or fraction of
10 a month, during which the failure continues, not to exceed 25%
11 in the aggregate.

12 (c) Timely payment.--If the commission determines that a
13 producer has not made a timely payment of the fee, the
14 commission shall send written notice of the amount of the
15 deficiency to the producer within 30 days from the date of
16 determining the deficiency. The commission shall notify the
17 department of a producer that has failed to pay the fee for any
18 unconventional gas well under section 2302 (relating to
19 unconventional gas well fee). If the producer does not have a
20 pending appeal related to payment of the fee in process, the
21 department shall suspend the permit for that well until the fee
22 has been paid.

23 (d) Remedies.--The remedies provided under this chapter are
24 in addition to any other remedies provided by law or in equity.

25 (e) Lien.--Fines, fees, interest and penalties shall be
26 collectible as authorized by law for the collection of debts. If
27 the producer liable to pay an amount neglects or refuses to pay
28 the amount after demand, the amount, together with costs, shall
29 be a judgment in favor of the Commonwealth upon the property of
30 the producer, but only after the judgment has been entered,

1 docketed and recorded by the prothonotary of the county where
2 the property is situated. The Commonwealth shall transmit to the
3 prothonotaries of the respective counties certified copies of
4 the judgments. Each prothonotary shall enter, docket and record
5 the record in the prothonotary's office and index each judgment,
6 without requiring the payment of costs as a condition precedent
7 to the entry of the judgment.

8 § 2309. Enforcement orders.

9 (a) Issuance.--The commission may issue an order as
10 necessary to enforce this chapter. An order issued under this
11 section shall take effect upon notice, unless the order
12 specifies otherwise. A person aggrieved by an order under this
13 section may appeal to the Commonwealth Court under 42 Pa.C.S. §
14 763 (relating to direct appeals from government agencies).

15 (b) Compliance.--A producer has the duty to comply with an
16 order issued under subsection (a). If a producer fails to
17 proceed diligently to comply with an order within the time
18 required, the producer shall be guilty of contempt and shall be
19 punished by the court in an appropriate manner. The commission
20 shall apply to the Commonwealth Court, which shall have
21 jurisdiction over matters relating to contempt.

22 § 2310. Administrative penalties.

23 (a) Civil penalties.--In addition to any other proceeding
24 authorized by law, the commission may assess a civil penalty not
25 to exceed \$2,500 per violation upon a producer for the violation
26 of this chapter. In determining the amount of the penalty, the
27 commission shall consider the willfulness of the violation and
28 other relevant factors.

29 (b) Separate offense.--Each violation for each separate day
30 and each violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate

1 offense.

2 (c) Limitation of actions.--Notwithstanding any limitation
3 in 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 Subch. B (relating to civil actions and
4 proceedings) an action under this section must be brought within
5 three years of the violation.

6 (d) Procedure.--A penalty under this chapter is subject to
7 66 Pa.C.S. Ch. 3 Subch. B (relating to investigations and
8 hearings).

9 § 2311. (Reserved).

10 § 2312. Recordkeeping.

11 A producer liable for the fee under this chapter shall keep
12 records, make reports and comply with regulations of the
13 commission. The commission may require a producer to make
14 reports, render statements or keep records as the commission
15 deems sufficient to determine liability for the fee.

16 § 2313. Examinations.

17 (a) Access.--The commission or its authorized agents or
18 representatives shall:

19 (1) Have access to the relevant books, papers and
20 records of any producer in order to verify the accuracy and
21 completeness of a report filed or fee paid under this
22 chapter.

23 (2) Require the preservation of all relevant books,
24 papers and records for an appropriate period not to exceed
25 three years from the end of the calendar year to which the
26 records relate.

27 (3) Examine any employee of a producer under oath
28 concerning the severing of natural gas subject to a fee or
29 any matter relating to the enforcement of this chapter.

30 (4) Compel the production of relevant books, papers and

records and the attendance of all individuals who the
commission believes to have knowledge of relevant matters in
accordance with 66 Pa.C.S. (relating to public utilities).

(b) Unauthorized disclosure.--Any information obtained by
the commission as a result of any report, examination,
investigation or hearing under this chapter shall be
confidential and shall not be disclosed, except for official
purposes, in accordance with judicial order or as otherwise
provided by law. A commissioner or an employee of the commission
who without authorization divulges confidential information
shall be subject to disciplinary action by the commission.

§ 2314. Distribution of fee.

(a) Establishment.--There is established a fund in the State
Treasury to be known as the Unconventional Gas Well Fund to be
administered by the commission.

(b) Deposit.--All fees imposed and collected under this
chapter shall be deposited into the fund and are hereby
appropriated for the purpose set forth in this section.

(c) Conservation districts.--

(1) From fees collected for 2011, \$2,500,000 from the
fund shall be distributed to county conservation districts.

(2) From fees collected for 2012, \$5,000,000 from the
fund shall be distributed to county conservation districts.

(3) From fees collected for 2013, and each year
thereafter, \$7,500,000 from the fund shall be distributed to
county conservation districts.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2014, each July 1 thereafter, the
amount distributed under paragraph (3) shall be increased by
any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All
Urban Consumers for the most recent 12-month period for which

1 figures have been officially reported by the Bureau of Labor
2 Statistics immediately prior to July 1.

3 (5) Funds under paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) shall be
4 distributed in accordance with the following:

5 (i) One-half shall be distributed by dividing the
6 amount equally among conservation districts for any use
7 consistent with the act of May 15, 1945 (P.L.547,
8 No.217), known as the Conservation District Law.

9 (ii) One-half shall be distributed by the State
10 Conservation Commission in a manner consistent with the
11 Conservation District Law and the provisions of the State
12 Conservation Commission's Conservation District Fund
13 Allocation Program-Statement of Policy under 25 Pa. Code
14 Ch. 83 Subch. B (relating to Conservation District Fund
15 Allocation Program-Statement of Policy).

16 (c.1) Additional distributions.--From fees collected under
17 this chapter and deposited in the fund for 2011 and each year
18 thereafter:

19 (1) \$1,000,000 shall be distributed to the Pennsylvania
20 Fish and Boat Commission for costs relating to the review of
21 applications for permits to drill unconventional gas wells.

22 (2) \$1,000,000 shall be distributed to the Public
23 Utility Commission for costs to administer this chapter and
24 Chapter 33 (relating to local ordinances relating to oil and
25 gas operations).

26 (3) \$6,000,000 to the department for the administration
27 of this act and the enforcement of acts relating to clean air
28 and clean water.

29 (4) \$750,000 to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management
30 Agency for emergency response planning, training and

coordination related to natural gas production from
unconventional gas wells.

(5) \$750,000 to the Office of State Fire Commissioner
for the development, delivery and sustainment of training and
grant programs for first responders and the acquisition of
specialized equipment for response to emergencies relating to
natural gas production from unconventional gas wells.

(6) \$1,000,000 to the Department of Transportation for
rail freight assistance.

(c.2) Natural gas energy development.--Following
distributions from the fund under subsections (c) and (c.1), the
following amounts shall be deposited into the Marcellus Legacy
Fund for distribution to the department for the Natural Gas
Energy Development Program under Chapter 27 (relating to Natural
Gas Energy Development Program):

(1) For 2011, \$10,000,000.

(2) For 2012, \$7,500,000.

(3) For 2013, \$2,500,000.

(c.3) Report.--All agencies or organizations receiving funds
under subsections (c), (c.1) and (c.2) shall submit a report by
December 31, 2012, and December 31 of each year thereafter to
the Secretary of the Budget and the Appropriations Committee of
the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of
Representatives. The report shall include an itemization and
explanation of the use of all funds received under subsections
(c), (c.1) and (c.2).

(d) Distribution.--Except as provided in section 2302(a.3)
and (a.4) (relating to unconventional gas well fee), following
fee distribution under subsections (c), (c.1) and (c.2), from
fees collected for 2011 and each year thereafter, 60% of the

1 revenue remaining in the fund from fees collected for the prior
2 year are hereby appropriated to counties and municipalities for
3 purposes authorized under subsection (g). Counties and
4 municipalities are encouraged, where appropriate, to jointly
5 fund projects that cross jurisdictional lines. The commission,
6 after making a disbursement under subsection (f), shall
7 distribute the remaining funds appropriated as follows within
8 three months after the date the fee is due:

9 (1) Except as provided in section 2302(a.3), 36% shall
10 be distributed to counties in which spud unconventional gas
11 wells are located. The amount for each county to which funds
12 will be distributed shall be determined using a formula that
13 divides the number of spud unconventional gas wells in the
14 county by the number of spud unconventional gas wells in this
15 Commonwealth and multiplies the resulting percentage by the
16 amount available for distribution under this paragraph.

17 (2) Except as provided in section 2302(a.4), 37% shall
18 be distributed to municipalities in which spud unconventional
19 gas wells are located. The amount for each municipality to
20 which funds will be distributed shall be determined using a
21 formula that divides the number of spud unconventional gas
22 wells in the municipality by the number of spud
23 unconventional gas wells in this Commonwealth and multiplies
24 the resulting percentage by the amount available for
25 distribution under this paragraph.

26 (3) Except as provided in section 2302(a.4), 27% shall
27 be distributed to municipalities located in a county in which
28 spud unconventional gas wells are located. The amount
29 available for distribution in each county shall be determined
30 by dividing the number of spud unconventional gas wells in

1 the county by the number of spud unconventional gas wells in
2 this Commonwealth and multiplying the resulting percentage by
3 the amount available for distribution under this paragraph.
4 The resulting amount available for distribution in each
5 county in which spud unconventional gas wells are located
6 shall be distributed to each municipality in the county to
7 which funds will be distributed as follows:

8 (i) Except as provided in section 2302(a.4), 50% of
9 the amount available under this paragraph shall be
10 distributed to municipalities in which spud
11 unconventional gas wells are located and to
12 municipalities that are either contiguous with a
13 municipality in which spud unconventional gas wells are
14 located or are located within five linear miles of a spud
15 unconventional gas well. The distribution shall be made
16 as follows:

17 (A) One-half shall be distributed to each
18 municipality using a formula that divides the
19 population of the eligible municipality within the
20 county by the total population of all eligible
21 municipalities within the county and multiplies the
22 resulting percentage by the amount allocated to the
23 county under this subparagraph.

24 (B) One-half shall be distributed to each
25 municipality using a formula that divides the highway
26 mileage of the eligible municipality within the
27 county by the total highway mileage of all eligible
28 municipalities within the county and multiplies the
29 resulting percentage by the amount allocated to the
30 county under this subparagraph.

1 (ii) Except as provided in section 2302(a.4), 50% of
2 the amount available under this paragraph shall be
3 distributed to each municipality in the county regardless
4 of whether an unconventional gas well is located in the
5 municipality as follows:

6 (A) One-half shall be distributed to each
7 municipality using a formula that divides the
8 population of the municipality within the county by
9 the total population of the county and multiplies the
10 resulting percentage by the amount allocated to the
11 county under this subparagraph.

12 (B) One-half shall be distributed to each
13 municipality using a formula that divides the highway
14 mileage of the municipality within the county by the
15 total highway mileage of the county and multiplies
16 the resulting percentage by the amount allocated to
17 the county under this subparagraph.

18 (e) Restriction.--The amount allocated to each municipality
19 under subsection (d) shall not exceed the greater of \$500,000 or
20 50% of the total budget for the prior fiscal year beginning with
21 the 2010 budget year and continuing every year thereafter,
22 adjusted to reflect any upward changes in the Consumer Price
23 Index for all Urban Consumers for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey,
24 Delaware and Maryland area in the preceding 12 months. Any
25 remaining money shall be retained by the commission and
26 deposited in the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation
27 Enhancement Fund for the uses specified under subsection (f).

28 (f) Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement
29 Fund.--

30 (1) From fees collected for 2011, \$2,500,000 from the

1 fund shall be distributed to the Housing Affordability and
2 Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund under the act of November 23,
3 2010 (P.L.1035, No.105), entitled "An act amending the act of
4 December 3, 1959 (P.L.1688, No.621), entitled, as amended,
5 'An act to promote the health, safety and welfare of the
6 people of the Commonwealth by broadening the market for
7 housing for persons and families of low and moderate income
8 and alleviating shortages thereof, and by assisting in the
9 provision of housing for elderly persons through the creation
10 of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency as a public
11 corporation and government instrumentality; providing for the
12 organization, membership and administration of the agency,
13 prescribing its general powers and duties and the manner in
14 which its funds are kept and audited, empowering the agency
15 to make housing loans to qualified mortgagors upon the
16 security of insured and uninsured mortgages, defining
17 qualified mortgagors and providing for priorities among
18 tenants in certain instances, prescribing interest rates and
19 other terms of housing loans, permitting the agency to
20 acquire real or personal property, permitting the agency to
21 make agreements with financial institutions and Federal
22 agencies, providing for the purchase by persons of low and
23 moderate income of housing units, and approving the sale of
24 housing units, permitting the agency to sell housing loans,
25 providing for the promulgation of regulations and forms by
26 the agency, prescribing penalties for furnishing false
27 information, empowering the agency to borrow money upon its
28 own credit by the issuance and sale of bonds and notes and by
29 giving security therefor, permitting the refunding,
30 redemption and purchase of such obligations by the agency,

prescribing remedies of holders of such bonds and notes,
exempting bonds and notes of the agency, the income
therefrom, and the income and revenues of the agency from
taxation, except transfer, death and gift taxes; making such
bonds and notes legal investments for certain purposes; and
indicating how the act shall become effective,' providing for
the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation
Enhancement Program; and establishing the Housing
Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund." From fees
collected for 2012, and each year thereafter, \$5,000,000
shall be annually distributed to the Housing Affordability
and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund.

(2) Funds under paragraph (1) shall be used for the
following purposes:

(i) To provide support to projects in a county in
which producing unconventional gas wells are located that
increase availability of quality, safe, affordable
housing for low-income and moderate-income individuals or
families, persons with disabilities or elderly persons.

(ii) To provide rental assistance in a county in
which producing unconventional gas wells are located to
persons or families whose household income does not
exceed the area median income.

(3) No less than 50% of the funds available under this
subsection shall be used in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth
class counties.

(g) Use of funds.--A county or municipality receiving funds
under subsection (d) shall use the funds received only for the
following purposes associated with natural gas production from
unconventional gas wells within the county or municipality:

1 (1) Construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair
2 of roadways, bridges and public infrastructure.

3 (2) Water, storm water and sewer systems, including
4 construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair.

5 (3) Emergency preparedness and public safety, including
6 law enforcement and fire services, hazardous material
7 response, 911, equipment acquisition and other services.

8 (4) Environmental programs, including trails, parks and
9 recreation, open space, flood plain management, conservation
10 districts and agricultural preservation.

11 (5) Preservation and reclamation of surface and
12 subsurface waters and water supplies.

13 (6) Tax reductions, including homestead exclusions.

14 (7) Projects to increase the availability of safe and
15 affordable housing to residents.

16 (8) Records management, geographic information systems
17 and information technology.

18 (9) The delivery of social services.

19 (10) Judicial services.

20 (11) For deposit into the county or municipality's
21 capital reserve fund if the funds are used solely for a
22 purpose set forth in this subsection.

23 (12) Career and technical centers for training of
24 workers in the oil and gas industry.

25 (13) Local or regional planning initiatives under the
26 act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the
27 Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

28 (h) Reporting.--

29 (1) The commission shall submit an annual report on all
30 funds in the fund. The report shall include a detailed

1 listing of all deposits and expenditures of the fund and be
2 submitted to the chairman and the minority chairman of the
3 Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairman and the
4 minority chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy
5 Committee of the Senate, the chairman and the minority
6 chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of
7 Representatives and the chairman and the minority chairman of
8 the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House
9 of Representatives. The report shall be submitted by December
10 30, 2012, and by September 30 of each year thereafter.

11 (2) All counties and municipalities receiving funds from
12 the fund under this section shall submit information to the
13 commission on a form prepared by the commission that sets
14 forth the amount and use of the funds received in the prior
15 calendar year. The form shall set forth that the funds
16 received were committed to a specific project or use as
17 authorized in this section. The reports shall be published
18 annually on the county or municipality's publicly accessible
19 Internet website.

20 (i) Availability of funds.--Distribution of funds under this
21 section and section 2315 (relating to Statewide initiatives) are
22 contingent on availability of funds in the fund. If sufficient
23 funds are not available, the commission shall disburse funds on
24 a pro rata basis.

25 § 2315. Statewide initiatives.

26 (a) Establishment.--There is established in the State
27 Treasury a fund to be known as the Marcellus Legacy Fund.

28 (a.1) Deposit and distribution.--Following distribution
29 under section 2314(c), (c.1) and (c.2) (relating to distribution
30 of fee) from fees collected for 2011 and each year thereafter,

40% of the remaining revenue in the fund shall be deposited into the Marcellus Legacy Fund and appropriated to the commission and distributed within three months after the date the fee is due as follows:

(1) Twenty percent to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for grants to eligible applicants for the following:

(i) Acid mines: damage, abatement and cleanup and mine reclamation, with priority given to projects which recycle and treat water for use in drilling operations.

(ii) Orphan or abandoned oil and gas well plugging.

(iii) Complying with the act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537), known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

(iv) Planning acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects.

(v) Programs to establish baseline water quality data on private water supplies.

(vi) Watershed programs and related projects.

(vii) Up to 25% of funds distributed to the Commonwealth Financing Authority under this paragraph may be utilized for flood-control projects.

(2) Ten percent to the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

(3) Twenty-five percent to the Highway Bridge Improvement Restricted Account in the Motor License Fund to counties to be distributed to fund the cost of the replacement or repair of locally owned at-risk deteriorated bridges. Funds shall be distributed to counties proportionately based on the population of the county as

follows:

(i) In each county, the distribution shall be according to the following formula:

(A) Divide:

(I) the total population of the county; by

(II) the total population of the

Commonwealth;

(B) Express the quotient under clause (A) as a percentage.

(C) Multiply:

(I) the percentage under clause (B); by

(II) the amount of money to be distributed under this paragraph.

(ii) Each county shall receive a minimum of \$40,000 to the extent funds are available.

(iii) The Department of Transportation shall release money under this paragraph upon approval of a plan submitted by a county or municipality to repair an at-risk deteriorated bridge. The plan must include funding for replacement or repair.

(iv) A county of the first or second class may submit a plan to use its funds under this paragraph for at-risk deteriorated bridges owned by a public transportation authority.

(4) Twenty-five percent for water and sewer projects. Fifty percent of the amount distributed under this paragraph shall be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority to be used in accordance with the act of March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16), known as the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act. Fifty percent of the

1 amount distributed under this paragraph shall be distributed
2 to the H2O PA program to be used by the Commonwealth
3 Financing Authority in accordance with section 301 of the act
4 of July 9, 2008 (P.L.908, No.63), known as the H2O PA Act.
5 The prohibition on grants for projects located in a city or
6 county of the first or second class under section 301 of the
7 H2O PA Act shall not apply to funds distributed to the H2O PA
8 Program under this paragraph.

9 (5) Fifteen percent for the planning, acquisition,
10 development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways,
11 recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community
12 conservation and beautification projects, community and
13 heritage parks and water resource management. Funds may be
14 used to acquire lands for recreational or conservation
15 purposes and land damaged or prone to drainage by storms or
16 flooding. Funds shall be distributed to counties
17 proportionately based on the population of the county as
18 follows:

19 (i) In each county, the distribution shall be
20 according to the following formula:

21 (A) Divide:

22 (I) the total population of the county; by

23 (II) the total population of the

24 Commonwealth.

25 (B) Express the quotient under clause (A) as a
26 percentage.

27 (C) Multiply:

28 (I) the percentage under clause (B); by

29 (II) the amount of funds available under
30 this paragraph.

1 (ii) Each county shall receive a minimum of \$25,000
2 to the extent funds are available.

3 (6) Five percent for distribution as follows:

4 (i) From fees collected in 2011, 2012 and 2013, to
5 the Department of Community and Economic Development for
6 projects to provide for the planning, development,
7 remodeling, remediation and construction of projects
8 relating to oil, natural gas or other chemical
9 substances. Projects under this subparagraph may include
10 blending facilities to liquefy or refine natural gas or
11 to convert natural gas to ethane, propane or other
12 substances; facilities to refine oil; or facilities to
13 refine or process oil, heating oil, jet fuel or any other
14 chemical substance. Following 2014, funds not utilized by
15 the Department of Community and Economic Development
16 under this subparagraph shall be deposited in the
17 Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

18 (ii) After 2013, to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup
19 Fund.

20 (b) Restriction on use of proceeds.--

21 (1) Funds distributed under subsection (a.1) shall not
22 be used for the purpose of public relations, outreach not
23 directly related to project implementation, communications,
24 lobbying or litigation.

25 (2) Funds distributed under subsection (a.1) may not be
26 used by an authorized organization as defined in 27 Pa.C.S. §
27 6103 (relating to definitions) for land acquisition unless
28 the authorized organization has obtained the written consent
29 of the county and municipality in which the land is situated.

30 (c) Coordination.--The department and the Department of

1 Conservation and Natural Resources shall review applications for
2 funding as requested by the Commonwealth Financing Authority and
3 provide recommendations on priority of projects and project
4 approval.

5 § 2316. Small business participation.

6 (a) Requirement.--Producers shall provide maximum
7 practicable contracting opportunities for diverse small
8 businesses, including minority-owned business enterprises,
9 women-owned business enterprises and veteran-owned businesses.

10 (b) Duties.--Producers shall do all of the following:

11 (1) Maintain a policy prohibiting discrimination in
12 employment and contracting based on gender, race, creed or
13 color.

14 (2) Use the database available on the Internet website
15 of the Department of General Services to identify certified
16 diverse small businesses, including minority-owned business
17 enterprises, women-owned business enterprises and veteran-
18 owned businesses, as potential contractors, subcontractors
19 and suppliers for opportunities related to unconventional
20 natural gas extraction.

21 (3) Respond to the survey under subsection (c) within 90
22 days.

23 (c) Survey.--Within one year of the effective date of this
24 section, the Department of General Services shall send all
25 producers a survey to report the producers' efforts to provide
26 maximum practicable contracting opportunities related to
27 unconventional natural gas extraction for diverse, small
28 business participation.

29 (d) Reports.--The Department of General Services shall
30 compile the results and submit an annual report to the State

Government Committee of the Senate and the State Government
Committee of the House of Representatives on the utilization of
diverse small business participation related to unconventional
natural gas extraction. The report shall be submitted no later
than 150 days after the Department of General Services
disseminated the survey to producers.

(e) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "diverse
small business" means minority-owned business, women-owned
business and veteran-owned business as determined by the
Department of General Services.

§ 2317. Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall not negate or limit the
responsibilities of any producer under this title, 74 Pa.C.S
(relating to transportation) or 75 Pa.C.S. (relating to
vehicles).

§ 2318. Expiration.

(a) Notice.--The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall, upon
the imposition of a severance tax on unconventional gas wells in
this Commonwealth, submit for publication in the Pennsylvania
Bulletin notice of the imposition.

(b) Date.--This chapter shall expire on the date of the
publication of the notice under subsection (a).

CHAPTER 25

OIL AND GAS LEASE FUND

Sec.

2501. Definitions.

2502. (Reserved).

2503. (Reserved).

2504. Appropriation of money.

2505. Funds.

1 § 2501. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Conservation and Natural
6 Resources of the Commonwealth.

7 § 2502. (Reserved).

8 § 2503. (Reserved).

9 § 2504. Appropriation of money.

10 Money in the Oil and Gas Lease Fund is specifically
11 appropriated as provided in this chapter.

12 § 2505. Funds.

13 (a) Priority.--Funds appropriated from the Oil and Gas Lease
14 Fund to the department under the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343,
15 No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, or other appropriation act
16 shall be distributed prior to allocations under subsection (b).

17 (b) Allocations.--Money in the Oil and Gas Lease Fund shall
18 be allocated on an annual basis as follows:

19 (1) The following amounts shall be transferred from the
20 Oil and Gas Lease Fund to the Marcellus Legacy Fund for
21 distribution to the Environmental Stewardship Fund:

22 (i) For 2013, \$20,000,000.

23 (ii) For 2014 and each year thereafter, \$35,000,000.

24 (2) The following amounts shall be transferred from the
25 Oil and Gas Lease Fund to the Marcellus Legacy Fund for
26 distribution to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund:

27 (i) For 2015, \$5,000,000.

28 (ii) For 2016 and each year thereafter, \$15,000,000.

29 CHAPTER 27

30 NATURAL GAS ENERGY

1 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2 Sec.

3 2701. Definitions.

4 2702. Assistance.

5 2703. Program.

6 2704. Expiration.

7 § 2701. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
9 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Bi-fuel vehicle." A motor vehicle equipped to be propelled
12 in part by compressed natural gas fuel and in part by diesel or
13 gasoline fuel.

14 "Company." An entity doing business in this Commonwealth
15 which is subject to tax under Article III, IV or VI of the act
16 of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of
17 1971.

18 "Dedicated compressed natural gas vehicle." A motor vehicle
19 that is produced by an original equipment manufacturer and
20 operates on 100% compressed natural gas fuel.

21 "Dedicated liquefied natural gas vehicle." A motor vehicle
22 that is produced by an original equipment manufacturer and
23 operates on 90% or more liquefied natural gas fuel and 10% or
24 less on gasoline or diesel fuel.

25 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
26 the Commonwealth.

27 "Eligible applicant." Any of the following:

28 (1) A Commonwealth authority.

29 (2) A municipal authority.

30 (3) The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

1 (4) A local transportation organization.

2 (5) A nonprofit entity.

3 (6) A State-owned or State-related university.

4 (7) A company.

5 "Eligible vehicles." The following shall constitute an
6 eligible vehicle under this chapter:

7 (1) Dedicated compressed natural gas vehicles that are
8 fleet vehicles and have a gross vehicle weight rating of at
9 least 14,000 pounds.

10 (2) Dedicated liquefied natural gas vehicles that are
11 fleet vehicles and have a gross vehicle weight rating of at
12 least 14,000 pounds.

13 (3) Bi-fuel vehicles that are fleet vehicles.

14 "Fleet vehicle." A vehicle registered to an eligible
15 applicant.

16 "Incremental purchase cost." The excess cost of a dedicated
17 compressed natural gas vehicle, a dedicated liquefied natural
18 gas vehicle or a bi-fuel vehicle over the price for a gasoline
19 or diesel fuel motor vehicle of a similar model. The term
20 includes the cost to retrofit a vehicle to operate as a
21 dedicated compressed natural gas vehicle, a dedicated liquefied
22 natural gas vehicle or a bi-fuel vehicle.

23 "Local transportation organization." Any of the following:

24 (1) A political subdivision.

25 (2) A public transportation authority, port authority or
26 redevelopment authority, which is:

27 (i) organized under:

28 (A) the laws of this Commonwealth; or

29 (B) an interstate compact; or

30 (ii) empowered to render, contract to render or

1 assist in rendering transportation services in a limited
2 area in this Commonwealth even though it may also render
3 or assist in rendering transportation service in adjacent
4 states.

5 (3) A nonprofit entity which directly or indirectly
6 provides public transportation service.

7 (4) A nonprofit entity of public transportation
8 providers operating within this Commonwealth.

9 "Original equipment manufacturer" or "OEM." The entity which
10 originally manufactures the natural gas engine or the vehicle
11 for sale.

12 "Start date." The date on which an eligible applicant first
13 places in service, through purchase or contract, a new or
14 retrofitted new natural gas vehicle.

15 § 2702. Assistance.

16 (a) Funding.--Grants under this chapter shall be made from
17 amounts deposited in the Marcellus Legacy Fund under section
18 2314(c.2) (relating to distribution of fee).

19 (b) Grants.--

20 (1) For fiscal year 2012-2013, the total amount of
21 grants approved under this chapter may not exceed
22 \$10,000,000. Of that amount, \$5,000,000 shall be allocated
23 exclusively for local transportation organizations. If the
24 total amount allocated to either the group of applications
25 exclusive of local transportation organizations or the group
26 of local transportation organization applicants is not
27 approved in fiscal year 2012-2013, the unused portion shall
28 be made available under paragraph (2).

29 (2) For fiscal year 2013-2014:

30 (i) The total amount of grants approved under this

chapter may not exceed the sum of:

(A) \$7,500,000; and

(B) any unused portion available under paragraph

(1).

(ii) Of the amount under subparagraph (i), 50% shall be allocated exclusively for local transportation organizations.

(iii) If the total amount allocated to either the group of applications exclusive of local transportation organizations or the group of local transportation organization applicants is not approved in fiscal year 2013-2014, the unused portion shall be made available under paragraph (3).

(3) For fiscal year 2014-2015, the total amount of grants approved under this chapter may not exceed the sum of:

(i) \$2,500,000; and

(ii) any unused portion available under paragraph

(2).

§ 2703. Program.

(a) Establishment and purpose.--The Natural Gas Energy Development Program is established. The purpose of the program is to fund projects under this chapter.

(b) Eligible projects.--Funds transferred to the department under Chapter 23 (relating to unconventional gas well fee) shall be utilized for competitive grants to eligible applicants for eligible projects as provided in this subsection. In order to be eligible to receive a grant, an eligible applicant must provide or demonstrate all of the following to the department:

(1) A plan to convert five or more fleet vehicles into eligible vehicles or purchase five or more eligible vehicles.

1 The plan must be financially viable within four years of the
2 start date and must include the construction and utilization
3 of a natural gas fueling station in this Commonwealth or the
4 utilization of an existing natural gas fueling station.

5 (2) A statement of the projected usage of natural gas
6 stated in gasoline or diesel gallon equivalents accompanied
7 by the methodology utilized and how the project will increase
8 use of domestic natural gas in this Commonwealth.

9 (3) The cost of the project.

10 (4) The source and amount of any funds to be contributed
11 by the eligible applicant.

12 (5) The intent to maintain operations in this
13 Commonwealth for a period of not less than six years from the
14 start date.

15 (6) That all of the eligible vehicles purchased with the
16 grant will be registered in this Commonwealth.

17 (7) The utilization of Federal funds on the project to
18 the extent that Federal funds are available.

19 (8) Whether or not the project includes the utilization
20 of a natural gas fueling facility that is accessible to the
21 public.

22 (c) Guidelines.--Funds under this section shall be used in
23 accordance with guidelines adopted by the department. The
24 guidelines shall do all of the following:

25 (1) Restrict each grant for an eligible vehicle to cover
26 no more than 50% of the incremental purchase cost.

27 (2) Limit the amount of the grant so that it shall not
28 exceed \$25,000 for each fleet vehicle.

29 (3) In the case of grants awarded for eligible vehicles
30 which are bi-fuel vehicles, provide for annual reporting to

1 the department by the eligible applicant demonstrating the
2 usage of compressed natural gas for a period not to exceed
3 four years after the start date.

4 (4) Require each eligible vehicle for which a grant is
5 awarded to comply with all Federal and State safety
6 requirements, including rules and regulations promulgated by
7 the Environmental Protection Agency.

8 (d) Application.--An applicant shall submit an application
9 including supporting information as required by the department.

10 (e) Project review.--The department shall review and prepare
11 an assessment of each application and determine which projects
12 will best utilize and promote the use of domestically produced
13 natural gas in this Commonwealth.

14 (f) Administrative costs.--No more than 1% of the funds
15 appropriated to the department shall be used for administrative
16 costs.

17 (g) Report.--The department shall provide a report to the
18 chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee
19 of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the
20 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives by
21 October 1, 2013, and each October 1 thereafter. The report shall
22 be maintained on the department's official Internet website and
23 shall include:

24 (1) A list of all grants approved during the previous
25 fiscal year, including the amount of the grant and a
26 description of each approved project.

27 (2) The estimated domestic energy benefits to date for
28 all projects receiving funding during the fiscal year and the
29 method used to determine estimated benefits.

30 Section 2704. Expiration.

This chapter shall expire December 31, 2016.

PART III

UTILIZATION

Chapter

31. (Reserved)

32. Development

33. Local Ordinances Relating to Oil and Gas Operation

35. Responsibility for Fee

CHAPTER 31

(RESERVED)

CHAPTER 32

DEVELOPMENT

Subchapter

A. Preliminary Provisions

B. General Requirements

C. Underground Gas Storage

D. Eminent Domain

E. Enforcement and Remedies

F. Miscellaneous Provisions

SUBCHAPTER A

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Sec.

3201. Scope of chapter.

3202. Declaration of purpose.

3203. Definitions.

§ 3201. Scope of chapter.

This chapter relates to oil and gas.

§ 3202. Declaration of purpose.

The purposes of this chapter are to:

(1) Permit optimal development of oil and gas resources

1 of this Commonwealth consistent with protection of the
2 health, safety, environment and property of Pennsylvania
3 citizens.

4 (2) Protect the safety of personnel and facilities
5 employed in coal mining or exploration, development, storage
6 and production of natural gas or oil.

7 (3) Protect the safety and property rights of persons
8 residing in areas where mining, exploration, development,
9 storage or production occurs.

10 (4) Protect the natural resources, environmental rights
11 and values secured by the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

12 § 3203. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
14 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Abandoned well." Any of the following:

17 (1) A well:

18 (i) that has not been used to produce, extract or
19 inject any gas, petroleum or other liquid within the
20 preceding 12 months;

21 (ii) for which equipment necessary for production,
22 extraction or injection has been removed; or

23 (iii) considered dry and not equipped for production
24 within 60 days after drilling, redrilling or deepening.

25 (2) The term does not include wells granted inactive
26 status.

27 "Additive." A hydraulic fracturing chemical.

28 "Alteration." An operation which changes the physical
29 characteristics of a well bore, including stimulation or
30 removing, repairing or changing the casing. For the purpose of

this chapter only, the term does not include:

(1) Repairing or replacing of the casing if the activity does not affect the depth or diameter of the well bore, the use or purpose of the well does not change and the activity complies with regulations promulgated under this chapter, except that this exclusion does not apply:

(i) to production casings in coal areas when the production casings are also the coal protection casings;
or

(ii) when the method of repairing or replacing the casing would affect the coal protection casing.

(2) Stimulation of a well.

"Board." The Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board.

"Bridge." An obstruction placed in a well at any depth.

"Building." An occupied structure with walls and roof within which persons live or customarily work.

"Casing." A string or strings of pipe commonly placed in wells drilled for natural gas or petroleum.

"Cement" or "cement grout." Any of the following:

(1) Hydraulic cement properly mixed with water only.

(2) A mixture of materials adequate for bonding or sealing of well bores as approved by regulations promulgated under this chapter.

"Chemical." Any element, chemical compound or mixture of elements or compounds that has its own specific name or identity, such as a chemical abstract service number.

"Chemical Disclosure Registry." The chemical registry website developed by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission or their successor organizations.

1 "Chemical family." A group of chemicals that share similar
2 chemical properties and have a common general name.

3 "Coal mine." Any of the following:

4 (1) Operations in a coal seam, including excavated
5 portions, abandoned portions and places actually being
6 worked.

7 (2) Underground workings and shafts, slopes, tunnels and
8 other ways and openings, including those which are in the
9 course of being sunk or driven, along with all roads and
10 facilities connected with them below the surface.

11 "Coal operator." A person that operates or proposes to
12 operate a coal mine as an owner or lessee.

13 "Completion of a well." The date after treatment, if any,
14 that the well is properly equipped for production of oil or gas,
15 or, if the well is dry, the date that the well is abandoned.

16 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
17 the Commonwealth.

18 "Drilling." The drilling or redrilling of a well or the
19 deepening of an existing well.

20 "Fresh groundwater." Water in that portion of the generally
21 recognized hydrologic cycle which occupies the pore spaces and
22 fractures of saturated subsurface materials.

23 "Gas." Any of the following:

24 (1) A fluid, combustible or noncombustible, which is
25 produced in a natural state from the earth and maintains a
26 gaseous or rarified state at standard temperature of 60
27 degrees Fahrenheit and pressure 14.7 PSIA.

28 (2) Any manufactured gas, by-product gas or mixture of
29 gases or natural gas liquids.

30 "Health professional." A physician, physician assistant,

nurse practitioner, registered nurse or emergency medical technician licensed by the Commonwealth.

"Hydraulic fracturing chemical." Any chemical substance or combination of substances, including any chemicals and proppants, that is intentionally added to a base fluid for purposes of preparing a stimulation fluid for use in hydraulic fracturing.

"Inactivate." To shut off the vertical movement of gas in a gas storage well by means of a temporary plug or other suitable device or by injecting bentonitic mud or other equally nonporous material into the well.

"Linear foot." A unit of measurement in a straight line on a horizontal plane.

"Natural gas liquids." Hydrocarbons in natural gas which are separated from the gas as liquids through the process of absorption, condensation, adsorption or other methods in gas processing of cycling plants.

"Oil." Hydrocarbons in liquid form at standard temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and pressure 14.7 PSIA, also referred to as petroleum.

"Operating coal mine." Any of the following:

(1) An underground coal mine which is producing coal or has been in production of coal at any time during the 12 months immediately preceding the date its status is put in question, including contiguous worked-out or abandoned coal mines to which it is connected underground.

(2) An underground coal mine to be established or reestablished under paragraph (1).

"Operating well." A well that is not plugged and abandoned.

"Operator." A well operator.

1 "Orphan well." A well abandoned prior to April 18, 1985,
2 that has not been affected or operated by the present owner or
3 operator and from which the present owner, operator or lessee
4 has received no economic benefit other than as a landowner or
5 recipient of a royalty interest from the well.

6 "Outside coal boundaries." When used in conjunction with the
7 term "operating coal mine," the boundaries of the coal acreage
8 assigned to the coal mine under an underground mine permit
9 issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

10 "Owner." A person who owns, manages, leases, controls or
11 possesses a well or coal property. The term does not apply to
12 orphan wells, except where the Department of Environmental
13 Protection determines a prior owner or operator benefited from
14 the well as provided in section 3220(a) (relating to plugging
15 requirements).

16 "Person." An individual, association, partnership,
17 corporation, political subdivision or agency of the Federal
18 Government, State government or other legal entity.

19 "Petroleum." Hydrocarbons in liquid form at standard
20 temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and pressure 14.7 PSIA,
21 also referred to as oil.

22 "Pillar." A solid block of coal surrounded by either active
23 mine workings or a mined-out area.

24 "Plat." A map, drawing or print accurately drawn to scale
25 showing the proposed or existing location of a well or wells.

26 "Reservoir protective area." The area surrounding a storage
27 reservoir boundary, but within 2,000 linear feet of the storage
28 reservoir boundary, unless an alternate area has been designated
29 by the Department of Environmental Protection, which is deemed
30 reasonably necessary to afford protection to the reservoir,

1 under a conference held in accordance with section 3251
2 (relating to conferences).

3 "Retreat mining." Removal of coal pillars, ribs and stumps
4 remaining after development mining has been completed in that
5 section of a coal mine.

6 "Secretary." The Secretary of Environmental Protection of
7 the Commonwealth.

8 "Storage operator." A person who operates or proposes to
9 operate a storage reservoir as an owner or lessee.

10 "Storage reservoir." That portion of a subsurface geological
11 stratum into which gas is or may be injected for storage
12 purposes or to test suitability of the stratum for storage.

13 "Unconventional formation." A geological shale formation
14 existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic
15 equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally
16 cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes
17 except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by
18 hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well
19 bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the
20 well bore.

21 "Unconventional well." A bore hole drilled or being drilled
22 for the purpose of or to be used for the production of natural
23 gas from an unconventional formation.

24 "Water management plan." A plan associated with drilling or
25 completing a well in an unconventional formation that
26 demonstrates that the withdrawal and use of water sources
27 protects those sources as required by law and protects public
28 health, safety and welfare.

29 "Water purveyor." Any of the following:

30 (1) The owner or operator of a public water system as

1 defined in section 3 of the act of May 1, 1984 (P.L.206,
2 No.43), known as the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act.

3 (2) Any person subject to the act of June 24, 1939
4 (P.L.842, No.365), referred to as the Water Rights Law.

5 "Water source."

6 (1) Any of the following:

7 (i) Waters of this Commonwealth.

8 (ii) A source of water supply used by a water
9 purveyor.

10 (iii) Mine pools and discharges.

11 (iv) Any other waters that are used for drilling or
12 completing a well in an unconventional formation.

13 (2) The term does not include flowback or production
14 waters or other fluids:

15 (i) which are used for drilling or completing a well
16 in an unconventional formation; and

17 (ii) which do not discharge into waters of this
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Well." A bore hole drilled or being drilled for the purpose
20 of, or to be used for, producing, extracting or injecting gas,
21 petroleum or another liquid related to oil or gas production or
22 storage, including brine disposal, but excluding a bore hole
23 drilled to produce potable water. The term does not include a
24 bore hole drilled or being drilled for the purpose of, or to be
25 used for:

26 (1) Systems of monitoring, producing or extracting gas
27 from solid waste disposal facilities, if the bore hole is a
28 well subject to the act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97),
29 known as the Solid Waste Management Act, which does not
30 penetrate a workable coal seam.

1 (2) Degasifying coal seams, if the bore hole is:

2 (i) used to vent methane to the outside atmosphere
3 from an operating coal mine; regulated as part of the
4 mining permit under the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987,
5 No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law, and the act of
6 May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the Surface
7 Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act; and drilled by
8 the operator of the operating coal mine for the purpose
9 of increased safety; or

10 (ii) used to vent methane to the outside atmosphere
11 under a federally funded or State-funded abandoned mine
12 reclamation project.

13 "Well control emergency." An incident during drilling,
14 operation, workover or completion that, as determined by the
15 department, poses a threat to public health, welfare or safety,
16 including a loss of circulation fluids, kick, casing failure,
17 blowout, fire and explosion.

18 "Well control specialist." Any person trained to respond to
19 a well control emergency with a current certification from a
20 well control course accredited by the International Association
21 of Drilling Contractors or other organization approved by the
22 department.

23 "Well operator." Any of the following:

24 (1) The person designated as operator or well operator
25 on the permit application or well registration.

26 (2) If a permit or well registration was not issued, a
27 person who locates, drills, operates, alters or plugs a well
28 or reconditions a well with the purpose of production from
29 the well.

30 (3) If a well is used in connection with underground

1 storage of gas, a storage operator.
2 "Wetland." Areas inundated or saturated by surface or
3 groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support,
4 and which normally support, a prevalence of vegetation typically
5 adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps,
6 marshes, bogs and similar areas.

7 "Workable coal seams." A coal seam which:

8 (1) is actually being mined in the area in question
9 under this chapter by underground methods; or

10 (2) in the judgment of the Department of Environmental
11 Protection, can reasonably be expected to be mined by
12 underground methods.

13 SUBCHAPTER B

14 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

15 Sec.

16 3211. Well permits.

17 3212. Permit objections.

18 3212.1. Comments by municipalities and storage operators.

19 3213. Well registration and identification.

20 3214. Inactive status.

21 3215. Well location restrictions.

22 3216. Well site restoration.

23 3217. Protection of fresh groundwater and casing requirements.

24 3218. Protection of water supplies.

25 3218.1. Notification to public drinking water systems.

26 3218.2. Containment for unconventional wells.

27 3218.3. Transportation records regarding wastewater fluids.

28 3218.4. Corrosion control requirements.

29 3218.5. Gathering lines.

30 3219. Use of safety devices.

1 3219.1. Well control emergency response.
2 3220. Plugging requirements.
3 3221. Alternative methods.
4 3222. Well reporting requirements.
5 3222.1. Hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure requirements.
6 3223. Notification and effect of well transfer.
7 3224. Coal operator responsibilities.
8 3225. Bonding.
9 3226. Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board.
10 3227. Air containment emissions.
11 § 3211. Well permits.

12 (a) Permit required.--No person shall drill or alter a well,
13 except for alterations which satisfy the requirements of
14 subsection (j), without having first obtained a well permit
15 under subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e), or operate an abandoned
16 or orphan well unless in compliance with subsection (l). A copy
17 of the permit shall be kept at the well site during preparation
18 and construction of the well site or access road during drilling
19 or alteration of the well. No person shall be required to obtain
20 a permit to redrill a nonproducing well if the redrilling:

21 (1) has been evaluated and approved as part of an order
22 from the department authorizing cleaning out and plugging or
23 replugging a nonproducing well under section 13(c) of the act
24 of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1069, No.214), known as the Coal
25 and Gas Resource Coordination Act; and

26 (2) is incidental to a plugging or replugging operation
27 and the well is plugged within 15 days of redrilling.

28 (b) Plat.--

29 (1) The permit application shall be accompanied by a
30 plat prepared by a competent engineer or a competent

1 surveyor, on forms furnished by the department, showing the
2 political subdivision and county in which the tract of land
3 upon which the well to be drilled, operated or altered is
4 located; a list of municipalities adjacent to the well site;
5 the name of the surface landowner of record and lessor; the
6 name of all surface landowners and water purveyors whose
7 water supplies are within 1,000 feet of the proposed well
8 location or, in the case of an unconventional well, within
9 3,000 feet from the vertical well bore; the name of the owner
10 of record or operator of all known underlying workable coal
11 seams; the acreage in the tract to be drilled; the proposed
12 location of the well determined by survey, courses and
13 distances of the location from two or more permanent
14 identifiable points or landmarks on the tract boundary
15 corners; the proposed angle and direction of the well if the
16 well is to be deviated substantially from a vertical course;
17 the number or other identification to be given the well; the
18 workable coal seams underlying the tract of land upon which
19 the well is to be drilled or altered and which shall be cased
20 off under section 3217 (relating to protection of fresh
21 groundwater and casing requirements); and any other
22 information needed by the department to administer this
23 chapter.

24 (2) The applicant shall forward by certified mail a copy
25 of the plat to the surface landowner; the municipality in
26 which the tract of land upon which the well to be drilled is
27 located; each municipality within 3,000 feet of the proposed
28 unconventional vertical well bore; the municipalities
29 adjacent to the well; all surface landowners and water
30 purveyors, whose water supplies are within 1,000 feet of the

1 proposed well location or, in the case of an unconventional
2 well, within 3,000 feet of the proposed unconventional
3 vertical well bore; storage operators within 3,000 feet of
4 the proposed unconventional vertical well bore; the owner and
5 lessee of any coal seams; and each coal operator required to
6 be identified on the well permit application.

7 (b.1) Notification.--The applicant shall submit proof of
8 notification with the well permit application. Notification of
9 surface owners shall be performed by sending notice to those
10 persons to whom the tax notices for the surface property are
11 sent, as indicated in the assessment books in the county in
12 which the property is located. Notification of surface
13 landowners or water purveyors shall be on forms, and in a manner
14 prescribed by the department, sufficient to identify the rights
15 afforded those persons under section 3218 (relating to
16 protection of water supplies) and to advise them of the
17 advantages of taking their own predrilling or prealteration
18 survey.

19 (b.2) Approval.--If the applicant submits to the department
20 written approval of the proposed well location by the surface
21 landowner and the coal operator, lessee or owner of any coal
22 underlying the proposed well location and no objections are
23 raised by the department within 15 days of filing, or if no
24 approval has been submitted and no objections are made to the
25 proposed well location within 15 days from receipt of notice by
26 the department, the surface landowner or any coal operator,
27 lessee or owner, the written approval shall be filed and become
28 a permanent record of the well location, subject to inspection
29 at any time by any interested person. The application form to
30 operate an abandoned or orphan well shall provide notification

1 to the applicant of its responsibilities to plug the well upon
2 abandonment.

3 (c) Applicants.--If the applicant for a well permit is a
4 corporation, partnership or person that is not a resident of
5 this Commonwealth, the applicant shall designate the name and
6 address of an agent for the operator who shall be the attorney-
7 in-fact for the operator and who shall be a resident of this
8 Commonwealth upon whom notices, orders or other communications
9 issued under this chapter may be served and upon whom process
10 may be served. Each well operator required to designate an agent
11 under this section shall, within five days after termination of
12 the designation, notify the department of the termination and
13 designate a new agent.

14 (d) Permit fee.--Each application for a well permit shall be
15 accompanied by a permit fee, established by the Environmental
16 Quality Board, which bears a reasonable relationship to the cost
17 of administering this chapter.

18 (e) Issuance of permit.--The department shall issue a permit
19 within 45 days of submission of a permit application unless the
20 department denies the permit application for one or more of the
21 reasons set forth in subsection (e.1), except that the
22 department shall have the right to extend the period for 15 days
23 for cause shown upon notification to the applicant of the
24 reasons for the extension. The department may impose permit
25 terms and conditions necessary to assure compliance with this
26 chapter or other laws administered by the department.

27 (e.1) Denial of permit.--The department may deny a permit
28 for any of the following reasons:

29 (1) The well site for which a permit is requested is in
30 violation of any of this chapter or issuance of the permit

1 would result in a violation of this chapter or other
2 applicable law.

3 (2) The permit application is incomplete.

4 (3) Unresolved objections to the well location by coal
5 mine owner or operator remain.

6 (4) The requirements of section 3225 (relating to
7 bonding) have not been met.

8 (5) The department finds that the applicant, or any
9 parent or subsidiary corporation of the applicant, is in
10 continuing violation of this chapter, any other statute
11 administered by the department, any regulation promulgated
12 under this chapter or a statute administered by the
13 department or any plan approval, permit or order of the
14 department, unless the violation is being corrected to the
15 satisfaction of the department. The right of the department
16 to deny a permit under this paragraph shall not take effect
17 until the department has taken a final action on the
18 violations and:

19 (i) the applicant has not appealed the final action
20 in accordance with the act of July 13, 1988 (P.L.530,
21 No.94), known as the Environmental Hearing Board Act; or

22 (ii) if an appeal has been filed, no supersedeas has
23 been issued.

24 (6) The applicant failed to pay the fee or file a report
25 under section 2303(c) (relating to administration), unless an
26 appeal is pending. The commission shall notify the department
27 of any applicant who has failed to pay the fee or file a
28 report and who does not have an appeal pending.

29 (f) Drilling.--

30 (1) Upon issuance of a permit, the well operator may

1 drill, operate or alter at the exact location shown on the
2 plat after providing the department, the surface landowner
3 and the local political subdivision in which the well is to
4 be located 24 hours' notice of the date that drilling will
5 commence. Notification to the department must be provided
6 electronically. If there is a break in drilling of 30 days or
7 more, the well operator shall notify the department at least
8 24 hours prior to the resumption of drilling.

9 (2) The unconventional well operator shall provide the
10 department 24 hours' notice prior to cementing all casing
11 strings, conducting pressure tests of the production casing,
12 stimulation and abandoning or plugging an unconventional
13 well.

14 (3) In noncoal areas where more than one well is to be
15 drilled as part of the same development project, only the
16 first well of the project need be located by survey.
17 Remaining wells of the project shall be shown on the plat in
18 a manner prescribed by regulation.

19 (4) Prior to drilling each additional project well, the
20 well operator shall notify the department and provide
21 reasonable notice of the date on which drilling will
22 commence.

23 (5) Whenever, before or during the drilling of a well
24 not within the boundaries of an operating coal mine, the well
25 operator encounters conditions of a nature which renders
26 drilling of the bore hole or a portion thereof impossible, or
27 more hazardous than usual, the well operator, upon verbal
28 notice to the department, may immediately plug all or part of
29 the bore hole, if drilling has occurred, and commence a new
30 bore hole not more than 50 feet from the old bore hole if the

1 location of the new bore hole does not violate section 3215
2 (relating to well location restrictions) and, in the case of
3 a well subject to act of July 25, 1961 (P.L.825, No.359),
4 known as the Oil and Gas Conservation Law, if the new
5 location complies with existing laws, regulations and spacing
6 orders and the new bore hole is at least 330 feet from the
7 nearest lease boundary.

8 (6) Within ten days of commencement of the new bore
9 hole, the well operator shall file with the department a
10 written notice of intention to plug, a well record, a
11 completion report, a plugging certificate for the original
12 bore hole and an amended plat for the new bore hole.

13 (7) The well operator shall forward a copy of the
14 amended plat to the surface landowner identified on the well
15 permit application within ten days of commencement of the new
16 well bore.

17 (g) Posting.--The well permit number and operator's name,
18 address and telephone number shall be conspicuously posted at
19 the drilling site during site preparation, including the
20 construction of access roads, construction of the well site and
21 during drilling, operating or alteration of the well.

22 (h) Labeling.--The well operator shall install the permit
23 number issued by the department in a legible, visible and
24 permanent manner on the well upon completion.

25 (i) Expiration.--Well permits issued for drilling wells
26 under this chapter shall expire one year after issuance unless
27 operations for drilling the well are commenced within the period
28 and pursued with due diligence or unless the permit is renewed
29 in accordance with regulations of the department. If drilling is
30 commenced during the one-year period, the well permit shall

1 remain in force until the well is plugged in accordance with
2 section 3220 (relating to plugging requirements) or the permit
3 is revoked. A drilling permit issued prior to April 18, 1985,
4 for a well which is an operating well on April 18, 1985, shall
5 remain in force as a well permit until the well is plugged in
6 accordance with section 3220.

7 (j) Exceptions.--The Environmental Quality Board may
8 establish by regulation certain categories of alterations of
9 permitted or registered wells for which permitting requirements
10 of this section shall not apply. A well operator or owner who
11 proposes to conduct the alteration activity shall first obtain a
12 permit or registration modification from the department. The
13 Environmental Quality Board shall promulgate regulations as to
14 the requirements for modifications.

15 (k) No transfer permitted.--No permit issued under this
16 section or registration issued under section 3213 (relating to
17 well registration and identification) may be transferred without
18 prior approval of the department. A request for approval of a
19 transfer shall be on the forms, and in the manner, prescribed by
20 the department. The department shall approve or deny a transfer
21 request within 45 days of receipt of a complete and accurate
22 application. The department may deny a request only for reasons
23 set forth in subsection (e.1)(4) and (5). Approval of a transfer
24 request shall permanently transfer responsibility to plug the
25 well under section 3220 to the recipient of the transferred
26 permit or registration.

27 (l) Regulations.--The Environmental Quality Board may
28 establish by regulation requirements for the permitting and
29 operation of abandoned or orphan wells. A person who proposes to
30 conduct abandoned or orphan well operations shall first obtain a

1 permit to operate an abandoned or orphan well.

2 (m) Water management.--The following shall apply to water
3 management:

4 (1) No person may withdraw or use water from water
5 sources within this Commonwealth for the drilling or
6 hydraulic fracture stimulation of any natural gas well
7 completed in an unconventional gas formation, whether on or
8 off of the land where the gas well is located, except in
9 accordance with a water management plan approved by the
10 department.

11 (2) The department shall review and approve water
12 management plans based upon a determination that the proposed
13 withdrawal, when operated in accordance with the proposed
14 withdrawal operating conditions set forth in the plan,
15 including conditions relating to quantity, withdrawal rate
16 and timing and any passby flow conditions, will:

17 (i) not adversely affect the quantity or quality of
18 water available to other users of the same water sources;

19 (ii) protect and maintain the designated and
20 existing uses of water sources;

21 (iii) not cause adverse impact to water quality in
22 the watershed considered as a whole; and

23 (iv) include a reuse plan for fluids that will be
24 used to hydraulically fracture wells.

25 (3) As to criteria:

26 (i) The criteria under paragraph (2) shall be
27 presumed to be achieved if the proposed water withdrawal
28 has been approved by and is operated in accordance with
29 conditions established by the Susquehanna River Basin
30 Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission or the

1 Great Lakes Commission, as applicable.

2 (ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (i), the
3 department may establish additional requirements as
4 necessary to comply with the laws of this Commonwealth.

5 (4) In addition to the requirements under paragraphs
6 (1), (2) and (3), compliance with a department-approved water
7 management plan shall be a condition of any permit issued
8 under this chapter for the drilling or hydraulic fracture
9 stimulation of any natural gas well completed in an
10 unconventional formation and shall be deemed to satisfy the
11 laws of this Commonwealth.

12 § 3212. Permit objections.

13 (a) General rule.--If a well referred to in section 3211(b)
14 (relating to well permits) will be located on a tract whose
15 surface is owned by a person other than the well operator, the
16 surface landowner affected shall be notified of the intent to
17 drill and may file objections, in accordance with section 3251
18 (relating to conferences), based on the assertion that the well
19 location violates section 3215 (relating to well location
20 restrictions) or that information in the application is untrue
21 in any material respect, within 15 days of the receipt by the
22 surface owner of the plat under section 3211(b). Receipt of
23 notice by the surface owner shall be presumed to have occurred
24 15 days from the date of the certified mailing when the well
25 operator submits a copy of the certified mail receipt sent to
26 the surface owner and an affidavit certifying that the address
27 of the surface owner to which notice was sent is the same as the
28 address listed in the assessment books in the county where the
29 property is located. If no objection is filed or none is raised
30 by the department within 15 days after receipt of the plat by

1 the surface landowner, or, if written approval by the surface
2 landowner is filed with the department and no objection is
3 raised by the department within 15 days of filing, the
4 department shall proceed to issue or deny the permit.

5 (b) Special circumstances.--If a well referred to in section
6 3211(b) will penetrate within the outside coal boundaries of an
7 operating coal mine or a coal mine already projected and platted
8 but not yet being operated, or within 1,000 linear feet beyond
9 those boundaries, and, in the opinion of the coal owner or
10 operator, the well or a pillar of coal about the well will
11 unduly interfere with or endanger the mine, the coal owner or
12 operator affected may file objections under section 3251 to the
13 proposed location within 15 days of the receipt by the coal
14 operator of the plat under section 3211(b). If possible, an
15 alternative location at which the proposed well could be drilled
16 to overcome the objections shall be indicated. If no objection
17 to the proposed location is filed or if none is raised by the
18 department within 15 days after receipt of the plat by the coal
19 operator or owner, or, if written approval by the coal operator
20 or owner of the location is filed with the department and no
21 objection is raised by the department within 15 days of filing,
22 the department shall proceed to issue or deny the permit.

23 (c) Procedure upon objection.--If an objection is filed by a
24 coal operator or owner or made by the department, the department
25 shall fix a time and place for a conference under section 3251
26 not more than ten days from the date of service of the objection
27 to allow the parties to consider the objection and attempt to
28 agree on a location. If they fail to agree, the department, by
29 an appropriate order, shall determine a location on the tract of
30 land as near to the original location as possible where, in the

1 judgment of the department, the well can be safely drilled
2 without unduly interfering with or endangering the mine as
3 defined in subsection (b). The new location agreed upon by the
4 parties or determined by the department shall be indicated on
5 the plat on file with the department and become a permanent
6 record upon which the department shall proceed to issue or deny
7 the permit.

8 (d) Survey.--Within 120 days after commencement of drilling
9 operations, the coal operator shall accurately locate the well
10 by a closed survey on the same datum as the mine workings or
11 coal boundaries are mapped, file the results of the survey with
12 the department and forward a copy by certified mail to the well
13 operator.

14 § 3212.1. Comments by municipalities and storage operators.

15 (a) Municipalities.--The municipality where the tract of
16 land upon which the unconventional well to be drilled is located
17 may submit written comments to the department describing local
18 conditions or circumstances which the municipality has
19 determined should be considered by the department in rendering
20 its determination on the unconventional well permit. A comment
21 under this subsection must be submitted to the department within
22 15 days of the receipt of the plat under section 3211(b)
23 (relating to well permits). The municipality shall
24 simultaneously forward a copy of its comments to the permit
25 applicant and all other parties entitled to a copy of the plat
26 under section 3211(b), who may submit a written response. A
27 written response must be submitted to the department within ten
28 days of receipt of the comments of the municipality.

29 (a.1) Storage operators.--A storage operator located within
30 3,000 feet of a proposed unconventional vertical well bore may

submit written comments to the department describing
circumstances which the storage operator has determined should
be considered by the department in rendering its determination
on the unconventional well permit. A comment under this
subsection must be submitted to the department within 15 days of
the receipt of the plat under section 3211(b). The storage
operator shall simultaneously forward a copy of its comments to
the permit applicant and all other parties entitled to a copy of
the plat under section 3211(b), who may submit a written
response. A written response must be submitted to the department
within ten days of receipt of the comments of the storage
operator.

(b) Consideration by department.--Comments and responses
under subsections (a) and (a.1) may be considered by the
department in accordance with section 3215(d) (relating to well
location restrictions).

(c) No extension of time period.--The process outlined in
this section shall not extend the time period for the issuance
or denial of a permit beyond the time period set forth in this
chapter.

§ 3213. Well registration and identification.

(a) General rule.--On or before July 5, 1996, each person
who owned or operated a well in existence prior to April 18,
1985, which has not been registered with the department and for
which no drilling permit has been issued by the department,
shall register the well with the department. A well owner or
operator who registers under this subsection and a well owner or
operator who has previously registered a well under this chapter
shall, on or before July 5, 1996, identify any abandoned well on
property which the well owner or operator owns or leases and

1 request approval from the department for classification of the
2 well as an orphan well. Information regarding wells to be
3 registered or identified shall be provided on a form, or in a
4 manner prescribed by the department, and shall include:

5 (1) The name and address of the well operator and, if
6 the well operator is a corporation, partnership or person
7 nonresident of this Commonwealth, the name and address of an
8 agent for the operator upon whom notices, orders, process or
9 other communications issued under this chapter may be served.

10 (2) The well name and the location of the well indicated
11 by a point on a 7 1/2 minute United States Geological Survey
12 topographic map or any other location description sufficient
13 to enable the department to locate the well on the ground.

14 (3) The approximate date of drilling and completing the
15 well, its approximate depth and producing horizons, well
16 construction information and, if available, driller's logs.

17 (4) An indemnity bond, an alternative fee in lieu of
18 bonding or other evidence of financial security submitted by
19 the well operator and deemed appropriate by the department
20 and satisfying the requirements of section 3225 (relating to
21 bonding). No bond, alternative fee or other evidence of
22 financial security shall be required for identification of an
23 orphan well. For wells drilled prior to January 30, 1956,
24 which have not been bonded, the well operator shall have five
25 years to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

26 (5) A registration fee of \$15 per well or blanket
27 registration fee of \$250 for multiple well registration
28 applications submitted simultaneously. The registration fee
29 shall be waived until July 5, 1996, and no fee shall be
30 charged for identification of an orphan well.

1 (a.1) Orphan wells.--After July 5, 1996, a well owner, well
2 operator or other person discovering an abandoned well on
3 property purchased or leased by the well owner, well operator or
4 other person shall identify it to the department within 60 days
5 of discovery and advise the department that he is seeking
6 classification of the well as an orphan well. No fee shall be
7 required for identification.

8 (b) Extension.--The department may extend the one-year time
9 period under subsection (a) for good cause shown. The extension
10 may not exceed a period ending two years from April 18, 1985.
11 The department may adopt and promulgate guidelines designed to
12 ensure a fair implementation of this section, recognizing the
13 practical difficulties of locating unpermitted wells and
14 complying with the reporting requirements of this chapter.

15 (c) Installation of registration number.--The well operator
16 shall install the registration number issued by the department
17 in a legible, conspicuous and permanent manner on the well
18 within 60 days of issuance.

19 (d) Definition.--For purposes of subsection (a) (4) and (5),
20 the term "owner" does not include an owner or possessor of
21 surface real property, on which an abandoned well is located,
22 who did not participate or incur costs in, and had no right of
23 control over, the drilling or extraction operation of the
24 abandoned well.

25 § 3214. Inactive status.

26 (a) General rule.--Upon application, the department shall
27 grant inactive status for a period of five years for a permitted
28 or registered well, if the following requirements are met:

29 (1) the condition of the well is sufficient to prevent
30 damage to the producing zone or contamination of fresh water

1 or other natural resources or surface leakage of any
2 substance;

3 (2) the condition of the well is sufficient to stop the
4 vertical flow of fluids or gas within the well bore and is
5 adequate to protect freshwater aquifers, unless the
6 department determines the well poses a threat to the health
7 and safety of persons or property or to the environment;

8 (3) the operator anticipates construction of a pipeline
9 or future use of the well for primary or enhanced recovery,
10 gas storage, approved disposal or other appropriate uses
11 related to oil and gas well production; and

12 (4) the applicant satisfies the bonding requirements of
13 sections 3213 (relating to well registration and
14 identification) and 3225 (relating to bonding), except that
15 the department may require additional financial security for
16 a well on which an alternative fee is being paid in lieu of
17 bonding under section 3225(d).

18 (b) Monitoring.--The owner or operator of a well granted
19 inactive status shall be responsible for monitoring the
20 mechanical integrity of the well to ensure that the requirements
21 of subsection (a) (1) and (2) are met and shall report the same
22 on an annual basis to the department in the manner and form
23 prescribed by departmental regulations.

24 (c) (Reserved).

25 (d) Return to active status.--A well granted inactive status
26 under subsection (a) shall be plugged in accordance with section
27 3220 (relating to plugging requirements) or returned to active
28 status within five years of the date inactive status was
29 granted, unless the owner or operator applies for an extension
30 of inactive status which may be granted on a year-to-year basis

1 if the department determines that the owner or operator has
2 demonstrated ability to continue meeting the requirements of
3 this section and the owner or operator certifies that the well
4 will be of future use within a reasonable period of time. An
5 owner or operator who has been granted inactive status for a
6 well which is returned to active status prior to expiration of
7 the five-year period set forth in subsection (a) shall notify
8 the department that the well has been returned to active status
9 and shall not be permitted to apply for another automatic five-
10 year period of inactive status for the well. The owner or
11 operator may make application to return the well to inactive
12 status, and the application may be approved on a year-to-year
13 basis if the department determines that the owner or operator
14 has demonstrated an ability to continue meeting the requirements
15 of this section and the owner or operator certifies that the
16 well will be of future use within a reasonable period of time.
17 The department shall approve or deny an application to extend a
18 period of inactive status or to return a well to inactive status
19 within 60 days of receipt of the application, and the
20 application shall not be unreasonably denied. If the department
21 has not completed its review of the application within 60 days,
22 the inactive status shall continue until the department has made
23 a determination on the request. If the department denies an
24 application to extend the period of inactive status or to return
25 a well to inactive status, a well owner or operator aggrieved by
26 the denial shall have the right to appeal the denial to the
27 Environmental Hearing Board within 30 days of receipt of the
28 denial. Upon cause shown by a well owner or operator, the board
29 may grant a supersedeas under section 4 of the act of July 13,
30 1988 (P.L.530, No.94), known as the Environmental Hearing Board

1 Act, so that the well in question may retain inactive status
2 during the period of the appeal.

3 (e) Revocation of inactive status.--The department may
4 revoke inactive status and order immediate plugging of a well if
5 the well is in violation of this chapter or rules or regulations
6 promulgated under this chapter or if the owner or operator
7 demonstrates inability to perform obligations under this chapter
8 or becomes financially insolvent, or upon receipt by the
9 department of notice of bankruptcy proceedings by the permittee.

10 § 3215. Well location restrictions.

11 (a) General rule.--Wells may not be drilled within 200 feet,
12 or, in the case of an unconventional gas well, 500 feet measured
13 horizontally from the vertical well bore to a building or water
14 well, existing when the copy of the plat is mailed as required
15 by section 3211(b) (relating to well permits) without written
16 consent of the owner of the building or water well.

17 Unconventional gas wells may not be drilled within 1,000 feet
18 measured horizontally from the vertical well bore to any
19 existing water well, surface water intake, reservoir or other
20 water supply extraction point used by a water purveyor without
21 the written consent of the water purveyor. If consent is not
22 obtained and the distance restriction would deprive the owner of
23 the oil and gas rights of the right to produce or share in the
24 oil or gas underlying the surface tract, the well operator shall
25 be granted a variance from the distance restriction upon
26 submission of a plan identifying the additional measures,
27 facilities or practices as prescribed by the department to be
28 employed during well site construction, drilling and operations.
29 The variance shall include additional terms and conditions
30 required by the department to ensure safety and protection of

1 affected persons and property, including insurance, bonding,
2 indemnification and technical requirements. Notwithstanding
3 section 3211(e), if a variance request has been submitted, the
4 department may extend its permit review period for up to 15 days
5 upon notification to the applicant of the reasons for the
6 extension.

7 (b) Limitation.--

8 (1) No well site may be prepared or well drilled within
9 100 feet or, in the case of an unconventional well, 300 feet
10 from the vertical well bore or 100 feet from the edge of the
11 well site, whichever is greater, measured horizontally from
12 any solid blue lined stream, spring or body of water as
13 identified on the most current 7 1/2 minute topographic
14 quadrangle map of the United States Geological Survey.

15 (2) The edge of the disturbed area associated with any
16 unconventional well site must maintain a 100-foot setback
17 from the edge of any solid blue lined stream, spring or body
18 of water as identified on the most current 7 1/2 minute
19 topographic quadrangle map of the United States Geological
20 Survey.

21 (3) No unconventional well may be drilled within 300
22 feet of any wetlands greater than one acre in size, and the
23 edge of the disturbed area of any well site must maintain a
24 100-foot setback from the boundary of the wetlands.

25 (4) The department shall waive the distance restrictions
26 upon submission of a plan identifying additional measures,
27 facilities or practices to be employed during well site
28 construction, drilling and operations necessary to protect
29 the waters of this Commonwealth. The waiver, if granted,
30 shall include additional terms and conditions required by the

1 department necessary to protect the waters of this
2 Commonwealth. Notwithstanding section 3211(e), if a waiver
3 request has been submitted, the department may extend its
4 permit review period for up to 15 days upon notification to
5 the applicant of the reasons for the extension.

6 (c) Impact.--On making a determination on a well permit, the
7 department shall consider the impact of the proposed well on
8 public resources, including, but not limited to:

9 (1) Publicly owned parks, forests, game lands and
10 wildlife areas.

11 (2) National or State scenic rivers.

12 (3) National natural landmarks.

13 (4) Habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna and
14 other critical communities.

15 (5) Historical and archaeological sites listed on the
16 Federal or State list of historic places.

17 (6) Sources used for public drinking supplies in
18 accordance with subsection (b).

19 (d) Consideration of municipality and storage operator
20 comments.--The department may consider the comments submitted
21 under section 3212.1 (relating to comments by municipalities and
22 storage operators) in making a determination on a well permit.
23 Notwithstanding any other law, no municipality or storage
24 operator shall have a right of appeal or other form of review
25 from the department's decision.

26 (d.1) Additional protective measures.--The department may
27 establish additional protective measures for storage of
28 hazardous chemicals and materials intended to be used, or that
29 have been used, on an unconventional well drilling site within
30 750 feet of a solid blue lined stream, spring or body of water

1 identified on the most current 7 1/2 minute topographic
2 quadrangle map of the United States Geological Survey.

3 (e) Regulation criteria.--The Environmental Quality Board
4 shall develop by regulation criteria:

5 (1) For the department to utilize for conditioning a
6 well permit based on its impact to the public resources
7 identified under subsection (c) and for ensuring optimal
8 development of oil and gas resources and respecting property
9 rights of oil and gas owners.

10 (2) For appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board of a
11 permit containing conditions imposed by the department. The
12 regulations shall also provide that the department has the
13 burden of proving that the conditions were necessary to
14 protect against a probable harmful impact of the public
15 resources.

16 (f) Floodplains.--

17 (1) No well site may be prepared or well drilled within
18 any floodplain if the well site will have:

19 (i) a pit or impoundment containing drilling
20 cuttings, flowback water, produced water or hazardous
21 materials, chemicals or wastes within the floodplain; or

22 (ii) a tank containing hazardous materials,
23 chemicals, condensate, wastes, flowback or produced water
24 within the floodway.

25 (2) A well site shall not be eligible for a floodplain
26 restriction waiver if the well site will have a tank
27 containing condensate, flowback or produced water within the
28 flood fringe unless all the tanks have adequate floodproofing
29 in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program
30 standards and accepted engineering practices.

1 (3) The department may waive restrictions upon
2 submission of a plan that shall identify the additional
3 measures, facilities or practices to be employed during well
4 site construction, drilling and operations. The waiver, if
5 granted, shall impose permit conditions necessary to protect
6 the waters of this Commonwealth.

7 (4) Best practices as determined by the department to
8 ensure the protection of the waters of this Commonwealth must
9 be utilized for the storage and handling of all water,
10 chemicals, fuels, hazardous materials or solid waste on a
11 well site located in a floodplain. The department may request
12 that the well site operator submit a plan for the storage and
13 handling of the materials for approval by the department and
14 may impose conditions or amend permits to include permit
15 conditions as are necessary to protect the environment,
16 public health and safety.

17 (5) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the
18 boundary of the floodplain shall be as indicated on maps and
19 flood insurance studies provided by the Federal Emergency
20 Management Agency. In an area where no Federal Emergency
21 Management Agency maps or studies have defined the boundary
22 of the 100-year frequency floodplain, absent evidence to the
23 contrary, the floodplain shall extend from:

24 (i) any perennial stream up to 100 feet horizontally
25 from the top of the bank of the perennial stream; or

26 (ii) from any intermittent stream up to 50 feet
27 horizontally from the top of the bank of the intermittent
28 stream.

29 (g) Applicability.--

30 (1) This section shall not apply to a well proposed to

1 be drilled on an existing well site for which at least one
2 well permit has been issued prior to the effective date of
3 this section.

4 (2) Nothing in this section shall alter or abridge the
5 terms of any contract, mortgage or other agreement entered
6 into prior to the effective date of this section.

7 § 3216. Well site restoration.

8 (a) General rule.--Each oil or gas well owner or operator
9 shall restore the land surface within the area disturbed in
10 siting, drilling, completing and producing the well.

11 (b) Plan.--During and after earthmoving or soil disturbing
12 activities, including, but not limited to, activities related to
13 siting, drilling, completing, producing and plugging the well,
14 erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be implemented
15 in accordance with an erosion and sedimentation control plan
16 prepared in accordance with the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987,
17 No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law.

18 (c) Pits, drilling supplies and equipment.--Within nine
19 months after completion of drilling of a well, the owner or
20 operator shall restore the well site, remove or fill all pits
21 used to contain produced fluids or industrial wastes and remove
22 all drilling supplies and equipment not needed for production.
23 Drilling supplies and equipment not needed for production may be
24 stored on the well site if express written consent of the
25 surface landowner is obtained.

26 (d) Items related to production or storage.--Within nine
27 months after plugging a well, the owner or operator shall remove
28 all production or storage facilities, supplies and equipment and
29 restore the well site.

30 (e) Clean Streams Law.--Restoration activities required by

this chapter or in regulations promulgated under this chapter shall also comply with all applicable provisions of The Clean Streams Law.

(f) Violation of chapter.--Failure to restore the well site as required in this chapter or regulations promulgated under this chapter constitutes a violation of this chapter.

(g) Extension.--

(1) The restoration period may be extended by the department for an additional period of time not to exceed two years upon demonstration by the well owner or operator that:

(i) the extension will result in less earth disturbance, increased water reuse or more efficient development of the resources; or

(ii) site restoration cannot be achieved due to adverse weather conditions or a lack of essential fuel, equipment or labor.

(2) The demonstration under paragraph (1) shall do all of the following:

(i) Include a site restoration plan that shall provide for:

(A) the timely removal or fill of all pits used to contain produced fluids or industrial wastes;

(B) the removal of all drilling supplies and equipment not needed for production;

(C) the stabilization of the well site that shall include interim postconstruction storm water management best management practices; or

(D) other measures to be employed to minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation in accordance with The Clean Streams Law.

1 (ii) Provide for returning the portions of the site
2 not occupied by production facilities or equipment to
3 approximate original contours and making them capable of
4 supporting the uses that existed prior to drilling the
5 well.

6 (3) The department may condition an extension under this
7 subsection as is necessary in accordance with The Clean
8 Streams Law.

9 (h) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "well
10 site" means areas occupied by all equipment or facilities
11 necessary for or incidental to drilling, production or plugging
12 a well.

13 § 3217. Protection of fresh groundwater and casing
14 requirements.

15 (a) General rule.--To aid in protection of fresh
16 groundwater, well operators shall control and dispose of brines
17 produced from the drilling, alteration or operation of an oil or
18 gas well in a manner consistent with the act of June 22, 1937
19 (P.L.1987, No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law, or any
20 regulation promulgated under The Clean Streams Law.

21 (b) Casing.--To prevent migration of gas or fluids into
22 sources of fresh groundwater and pollution or diminution of
23 fresh groundwater, a string or strings of casing shall be run
24 and permanently cemented in each well drilled through the fresh
25 water-bearing strata to a depth and in a manner prescribed by
26 regulation by the department.

27 (c) Procedure when coal has been removed.--If a well is
28 drilled at a location where coal has been removed from one or
29 more coal seams, the well shall be drilled and cased to prevent
30 migration of gas or fluids into the seam from which coal has

1 been removed in a manner prescribed by regulation of the
2 department. The department and the coal operator, owner or
3 lessee shall be given at least 72 hours' notice prior to
4 commencement of work protecting the mine.

5 (d) Procedure when coal has not been removed.--If a well is
6 drilled at a location where the coal seam has not been removed,
7 the well shall be drilled to a depth and of a size sufficient to
8 permit placement of casing, packers in and vents on the hole at
9 the points and in the manner prescribed by regulation to exclude
10 gas or fluids from the coal seam, except gas or fluids found
11 naturally in the seam itself, and to enable monitoring the
12 integrity of the production casing.

13 § 3218. Protection of water supplies.

14 (a) General rule.--In addition to the requirements of
15 subsection (c.1), a well operator who affects a public or
16 private water supply by pollution or diminution shall restore or
17 replace the affected supply with an alternate source of water
18 adequate in quantity or quality for the purposes served by the
19 supply. The department shall ensure that the quality of a
20 restored or replaced water supply meets the standards
21 established under the act of May 1, 1984 (P.L.206, No.43), known
22 as the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act, or is comparable to
23 the quality of the water supply before it was affected by the
24 operator if that water supply exceeded those standards. The
25 Environmental Quality Board shall promulgate regulations
26 necessary to meet the requirements of this subsection.

27 (b) Pollution or diminution of water supply.--A landowner or
28 water purveyor suffering pollution or diminution of a water
29 supply as a result of the drilling, alteration or operation of
30 an oil or gas well may so notify the department and request that

an investigation be conducted. Within ten days of notification,
the department shall investigate the claim and make a
determination within 45 days following notification. If the
department finds that the pollution or diminution was caused by
drilling, alteration or operation activities or if it presumes
the well operator responsible for pollution under subsection
(c), the department shall issue orders to the well operator
necessary to assure compliance with subsection (a), including
orders requiring temporary replacement of a water supply where
it is determined that pollution or diminution may be of limited
duration.

(b.1) (Reserved).

(b.2) Telephone number.--The department shall establish a
single Statewide toll-free telephone number that persons may use
to report cases of water contamination which may be associated
with the development of oil and gas resources. The Statewide
toll-free telephone number shall be provided in a conspicuous
manner in the notification required under section 3211(b)
(relating to well permits) and on the department's Internet
website.

(b.3) Responses.--The department shall develop appropriate
administrative responses to calls received on the Statewide
toll-free number for water contamination.

(b.4) Website.--The department shall publish, on its
Internet website, lists of confirmed cases of subterranean water
supply contamination that result from hydraulic fracturing.

(b.5) Facility operation qualifications.--The department
shall ensure that a facility which seeks a National Pollutant
Discharge Elimination System permit for the purposes of treating
and discharging wastewater originating from oil and gas

1 activities into waters of this Commonwealth is operated by a
2 competent and qualified individual.

3 (c) Presumption.--Unless rebutted by a defense established
4 in subsection (d), it shall be presumed that a well operator is
5 responsible for pollution of a water supply if:

6 (1) except as set forth in paragraph (2):

7 (i) the water supply is within 1,000 feet of an oil
8 or gas well; and

9 (ii) the pollution occurred within six months after
10 completion of drilling or alteration of the oil or gas
11 well; or

12 (2) in the case of an unconventional well:

13 (i) the water supply is within 2,500 feet of the
14 unconventional vertical well bore; and

15 (ii) the pollution occurred within 12 months of the
16 later of completion, drilling, stimulation or alteration
17 of the unconventional well.

18 (c.1) Requirement.--If the affected water supply is within
19 the rebuttable presumption area as provided in subsection (c)
20 and the rebuttable presumption applies, the operator shall
21 provide a temporary water supply if the water user is without a
22 readily available alternative source of water. The temporary
23 water supply provided under this subsection shall be adequate in
24 quantity and quality for the purposes served by the supply.

25 (d) Defenses.--To rebut the presumption established under
26 subsection (c), a well operator must affirmatively prove any of
27 the following:

28 (1) except as set forth in paragraph (2):

29 (i) the pollution existed prior to the drilling or
30 alteration activity as determined by a predrilling or

prealteration survey;

(ii) the landowner or water purveyor refused to allow the operator access to conduct a predrilling or prealteration survey;

(iii) the water supply is not within 1,000 feet of the well;

(iv) the pollution occurred more than six months after completion of drilling or alteration activities; and

(v) the pollution occurred as the result of a cause other than the drilling or alteration activity; or

(2) in the case of an unconventional well:

(i) the pollution existed prior to the drilling, stimulation or alteration activity as determined by a predrilling or prealteration survey;

(ii) the landowner or water purveyor refused to allow the operator access to conduct a predrilling or prealteration survey;

(iii) the water supply is not within 2,500 feet of the unconventional vertical well bore;

(iv) the pollution occurred more than 12 months after completion of drilling or alteration activities; or

(v) the pollution occurred as the result of a cause other than the drilling or alteration activity.

(e) Independent certified laboratory.--An operator electing to preserve a defense under subsection (d) (1) or (2) shall retain an independent certified laboratory to conduct a predrilling or prealteration survey of the water supply. A copy of survey results shall be submitted to the department and the landowner or water purveyor in the manner prescribed by the

department.

(e.1) Notice.--An operator of an unconventional well must provide written notice to the landowner or water purveyor indicating that the presumption established under subsection (c) may be void if the landowner or water purveyor refused to allow the operator access to conduct a predrilling or prealteration survey. Proof of written notice to the landowner or water purveyor shall be provided to the department for the operator to retain the protections under subsection (d)(2)(ii). Proof of written notice shall be presumed if provided in accordance with section 3212(a) (relating to permit objections).

(f) Other remedies preserved.--Nothing in this section shall prevent a landowner or water purveyor claiming pollution or diminution of a water supply from seeking any other remedy at law or in equity.

§ 3218.1. Notification to public drinking water systems.

Upon receiving notification of a spill, the department shall, after investigating the incident, notify any public drinking water facility that could be affected by the event that the event occurred. The notification shall contain a brief description of the event and any expected impact on water quality.

§ 3218.2. Containment for unconventional wells.

(a) Sites.--Unconventional well sites shall be designed and constructed to prevent spills to the ground surface or spills off the well site. Containment practices shall meet all of the following:

(1) Be instituted on the well site during both drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations.

(2) Be sufficiently impervious and able to contain

1 spilled material or waste until it can be removed or treated.

2 (3) Be compatible with the waste material or waste
3 stored or used within the containment.

4 (4) Additional practices as promulgated in regulation by
5 the Environmental Quality Board.

6 (b) Plan.--The applicant shall submit a plan to the
7 department describing the containment practices to be utilized
8 and the area of the well site where containment systems will be
9 employed. The plan shall include a description of the equipment
10 to be kept onsite during drilling and hydraulic fracturing
11 operations to prevent a spill from leaving the well site.

12 (c) Materials stored.--Containment systems shall be used
13 wherever any of the following are stored:

14 (1) Drilling mud.

15 (2) Hydraulic oil.

16 (3) Diesel fuel.

17 (4) Drilling mud additives.

18 (5) Hydraulic fracturing additives.

19 (6) Hydraulic fracturing flowback.

20 (d) Capacity.--Areas where any additives, chemicals, oils or
21 fuels are to be stored must have sufficient containment capacity
22 to hold the volume of the largest container stored in the area
23 plus 10% to allow for precipitation, unless the container is
24 equipped with individual secondary containment.

25 (e) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "well
26 site" means areas occupied by all equipment or facilities
27 necessary for or incidental to drilling, production or plugging
28 a well.

29 § 3218.3. Transportation records regarding wastewater fluids.

30 (a) Requirements.--A well operator of an unconventional well

1 that transports wastewater fluids shall do all of the following:

2 (1) Maintain records for five years, in accordance with
3 regulations under subsection (b) and on a form approved by
4 the department, of the amount and destination of the fluids
5 transported.

6 (2) Make the records under paragraph (1) available to
7 the department upon request.

8 (b) Recordkeeping.--Recordkeeping requirements shall be
9 determined by the department and shall include the following:

10 (1) The number of gallons of wastewater fluids produced
11 in the drilling, stimulation or alteration of a well.

12 (2) Upon completion of the well, the name of the person
13 of or company that transported the wastewater fluids to a
14 disposal site or to a location other than the well site.

15 (3) Each location where wastewater fluids were disposed
16 of or transported and the volumes that were disposed of at
17 the location other than the well site.

18 (4) The method of disposal.

19 § 3218.4. Corrosion control requirements.

20 (a) Pipelines.--All buried metallic pipelines shall be
21 installed and placed in operation in accordance with 49 CFR Pt.
22 192 Subpt. I (relating to requirements for corrosion control).

23 (b) Tanks.--Permanent aboveground and underground tanks must
24 comply with the applicable corrosion control requirements in the
25 department's storage tank regulations.

26 (c) Other structures.--For all other buried metallic
27 structures, including well casings, the Environmental Quality
28 Board shall promulgate regulations setting forth methods of
29 determining the need for corrosion protection and installing
30 necessary corrosion protection.

1 (d) Procedures.--The corrosion control procedures under
2 subsections (a) and (b) must be carried out by or under the
3 direction of a person qualified in corrosion methods.

4 (e) Compliance.--An operator of a new, replaced, relocated
5 or otherwise changed pipeline must be in compliance with the
6 applicable requirements of this section by the date the pipeline
7 goes into service.

8 § 3218.5. Gathering lines.

9 (a) Requirement.--Owners and operators of gathering lines
10 shall comply with section 2(5)(i.1) of the act of December 10,
11 1974 (P.L.852, No.287), referred to as the Underground Utility
12 Line Protection Law.

13 (b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
14 "gathering line" means a pipeline used to transport natural gas
15 from a production facility to a transmission line.

16 § 3219. Use of safety devices.

17 Any person engaged in drilling an oil or gas well shall equip
18 it with casings of sufficient strength, and other safety devices
19 as are necessary, in the manner prescribed by regulation of the
20 department, and shall use every effort and endeavor effectively
21 to prevent blowouts, explosions and fires.

22 § 3219.1. Well control emergency response.

23 (a) Contracts.--The department may enter into contracts with
24 well control specialists in order to provide adequate emergency
25 response services in the event of a well control emergency. The
26 department shall make available upon request by a county
27 information relating to contracts with well control specialists.

28 (b) Civil immunity.--Except as set forth in subsection (c),
29 a well control specialist with which the department has entered
30 into a contract under subsection (a) shall be immune from civil

1 liability for actions taken in good faith to carry out its
2 contractual obligations.

3 (c) Nonapplicability.--Subsection (b) shall not apply to
4 damage arising from any of the following:

5 (1) Breach of the contract under subsection (a).

6 (2) An intentional tort.

7 (3) Gross negligence.

8 § 3220. Plugging requirements.

9 (a) General rule.--Upon abandoning a well, the owner or
10 operator shall plug it in the manner prescribed by regulation of
11 the department to stop vertical flow of fluids or gas within the
12 well bore, unless the department has granted inactive status for
13 the well or it has been approved by the department as an orphan
14 well. If the department determines that a prior owner or
15 operator received economic benefit, other than economic benefit
16 derived only as a landowner or from a royalty interest, after
17 April 18, 1979, from an orphan well or an unregistered well, the
18 owner or operator shall be responsible for plugging the well. In
19 the case of a gas well penetrating a workable coal seam which
20 was drilled prior to January 30, 1956, or which was permitted
21 after that date but not plugged in accordance with this chapter,
22 if the owner or operator or a coal operator or an agent proposes
23 to plug the well to allow mining through it, the gas well shall
24 be cleaned to a depth of at least 200 feet below the coal seam
25 through which mining is proposed and, unless impracticable, to a
26 point 200 feet below the deepest mineable coal seam. The gas
27 well shall be plugged from that depth in accordance with section
28 13 of the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1069, No.214), known as
29 the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act, and the regulations
30 of the department.

1 (b) Areas underlain by coal.--Prior to the plugging and
2 abandonment of a well in an area underlain by a workable coal
3 seam, the well operator or owner shall notify the department and
4 the coal operator, lessee or owner and submit a plat, on a form
5 to be furnished by the department, showing the location of the
6 well and fixing the date and time plugging will commence, which
7 shall be not less than three working days, nor more than 30
8 days, after the notice is received, to permit representatives of
9 the persons notified to be present at the plugging. Notice and
10 the right to be present may be waived by the department and the
11 coal operator, lessee or owner, but waiver by the coal operator,
12 lessee or owner shall be in writing and a copy shall be attached
13 to the notice of abandonment filed with the department under
14 this section. Whether or not representatives attend, if the well
15 operator has fully complied with this section, the well operator
16 may proceed, at the time fixed, to plug the well in the manner
17 prescribed by regulation of the department. When plugging has
18 been completed, a certificate shall be prepared and signed, on a
19 form to be furnished by the department, by two experienced and
20 qualified people who participated in the work setting forth the
21 time and manner in which the well was plugged. One copy of the
22 certificate shall be mailed to each coal operator, lessee or
23 owner to whom notice was given by certified mail and another
24 shall be mailed to the department.

25 (c) Abandoned wells.--Prior to abandonment of a well, except
26 an uncompleted bore hole plugged immediately upon suspension of
27 drilling in an area not underlain by a workable coal seam, the
28 well operator shall notify the department of the intention to
29 plug and abandon the well and submit a plat, on a form to be
30 furnished by the department, showing the location of the well

1 and fixing the date and time at which plugging will commence,
2 which shall be not less than three working days, nor more than
3 30 days, after the notice is received, to permit a department
4 representative to be present at the plugging. The notice or
5 waiting period may be verbally waived by the department. In
6 noncoal areas where more than one well has been drilled as part
7 of the same development project and the wells are now to be
8 plugged, the department shall be given three working days'
9 notice prior to plugging the first well of the project, subject
10 to waiver of notice described in subsection (b). In the plugging
11 of subsequent wells, no additional notice shall be required if
12 plugging on the project is continuous. If plugging of subsequent
13 wells is delayed for any reason, notice shall be given to the
14 department of continuation of the project. Whether or not a
15 representative attends, if the well operator has fully complied
16 with this section, the well operator may proceed, at the time
17 fixed, to plug the well in the manner prescribed by regulation
18 of the department. When plugging has been completed, a
19 certificate shall be prepared, on a form to be furnished by the
20 department, by two experienced and qualified people who
21 participated in the work setting forth the time and manner in
22 which the well was plugged. A copy of the certificate shall be
23 mailed to the department.

24 (d) Wells abandoned upon completion of drilling.--If a well
25 is to be abandoned immediately after completion of drilling, the
26 well operator shall give at least 24 hours' notice by telephone,
27 confirmed by certified mail, to the department and to the coal
28 operator, lessee or owner, if any, fixing the date and time when
29 plugging will commence. Notice and the right to be present may
30 be waived by the department and the coal operator, lessee or

1 owner, if any. Whether or not representatives of the department
2 or coal operator, lessee or owner, if any, attend, if the well
3 operator has fully complied with the requirements of this
4 section, the well operator may proceed, at the time fixed, to
5 plug the well in the manner provided by regulation of the
6 department. The well operator shall prepare the certificate of
7 plugging and mail copies of the same as provided in subsection
8 (b).

9 (e) Orphan wells.--If a well is an orphan well or abandoned
10 without plugging, or if a well is in operation but not
11 registered under section 3213 (relating to well registration and
12 identification), the department may enter upon the well site and
13 plug the well and to sell equipment, casing and pipe at the site
14 which may have been used in production of the well in order to
15 recover the costs of plugging. The department shall make an
16 effort to determine ownership of a well which is in operation
17 but has not been registered and provide written notice to the
18 owner of pending action under this subsection. If the department
19 cannot determine ownership within 30 days, it may proceed under
20 this subsection. Costs of plugging shall have priority over all
21 liens on equipment, casing and pipe, and the sale shall be free
22 and clear of those liens to the extent that the cost of plugging
23 exceeds the sale price. If the amount obtained for casing and
24 pipe salvaged at the site is inadequate to pay for plugging, the
25 owner or operator of the abandoned or unregistered well shall be
26 liable for the additional costs.

27 (f) Definition.--For purposes of this section, the term
28 "owner" does not include the owner or possessor of surface real
29 property, on which an abandoned well is located, who did not
30 participate or incur costs in and had no right of control over

1 the drilling or extraction operation of the abandoned well.

2 § 3221. Alternative methods.

3 A well operator may request permission to use a method or
4 material other than those required by this chapter and
5 applicable regulations for casing, plugging or equipping a well
6 in an application to the department which describes the proposed
7 alternative in reasonable detail and indicates the manner in
8 which it will accomplish the goals of this chapter. Notice of
9 filing of the application shall be given by the well operator by
10 certified mail to any affected coal operators, who may, within
11 15 days after the notice, file objections to the proposed
12 alternative method or material. If no timely objections are
13 filed or raised by the department, the department shall
14 determine whether to allow use of the proposed alternative
15 method or material.

16 § 3222. Well reporting requirements.

17 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (a.1),
18 each well operator shall file with the department, on a form
19 provided by the department, an annual report specifying the
20 amount of production, on the most well-specific basis available,
21 along with the status of each well, except that in subsequent
22 years only changes in status must be reported. The Commonwealth
23 may utilize reported information in enforcement proceedings, in
24 making designations or determinations under section 1927-A of
25 the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The
26 Administrative Code of 1929, or in aggregate form for
27 statistical purposes.

28 (a.1) Unconventional wells.--Each operator of an
29 unconventional well shall file with the department, on a form
30 provided by the department, a semiannual report specifying the

1 amount of production on the most well-specific basis available.
2 The initial report under this subsection shall be filed by
3 August 15 and shall include production data from the preceding
4 calendar year and specify the status of each well. In subsequent
5 reports, only changes in status must be reported. Subsequent
6 semiannual reports shall be filed with the department on or
7 before February 15 and August 15 of each year and shall include
8 production data from the preceding reporting period. The
9 Commonwealth may utilize reported information in enforcement
10 proceedings, in making designations or determinations under
11 section 1927-A of The Administrative Code of 1929 or in
12 aggregate form for statistical purposes. Beginning November 1,
13 2010, the department shall make the reports available on its
14 publicly accessible Internet website. Costs incurred by the
15 department to comply with the requirements of this subsection
16 shall be paid out of the fees collected under section 3211(d)
17 (relating to well permits).

18 (b) Collection of data.--

19 (1) Well operators shall maintain a record of each well
20 drilled or altered.

21 (2) A record containing the information required by the
22 department shall be filed within 30 days after drilling of a
23 well.

24 (3) Within 30 days after completion of the well, when
25 the well is capable of production, a completion report
26 containing any additional required information shall be filed
27 and shall be maintained by the department.

28 (4) Upon request of the department, the well operator
29 shall, within 90 days of completion or recompletion of
30 drilling, submit a copy of any electrical, radioactive or

1 other standard industry logs which have been run.

2 (5) Upon request by the department within one year, the
3 well operator shall file a copy of drill stem test charts,
4 formation water analysis, porosity, permeability or fluid
5 saturation measurements, core analysis and lithologic log or
6 sample description or other similar data as compiled. No
7 information shall be required unless the well operator had it
8 compiled in the ordinary course of business, and
9 interpretation of data under this paragraph is not required
10 to be filed.

11 (b.1) Report contents.--

12 (1) The completion report shall contain the operator's
13 stimulation record. The stimulation record shall include all
14 of the following:

15 (i) A descriptive list of the chemical additives in
16 the stimulation fluids, including any acid, biocide,
17 breaker, brine, corrosion inhibitor, crosslinker,
18 demulsifier, friction reducer, gel, iron control, oxygen
19 scavenger, Ph adjusting agent, proppant, scale inhibitor
20 and surfactant.

21 (ii) The trade name, vendor and a brief descriptor
22 of the intended use or function of each chemical additive
23 in the stimulation fluid.

24 (iii) A list of the chemicals intentionally added to
25 the stimulation fluid, by name and chemical abstract
26 service number.

27 (iv) The maximum concentration, in percent by mass,
28 of each chemical intentionally added to the stimulation
29 fluid.

30 (v) The total volume of the base fluid.

1 (vi) A list of water sources used under the approved
2 water management plan and the volume of water used.

3 (vii) The pump rates and pressure used in the well.

4 (viii) The total volume of recycled water used.

5 (2) The well record shall identify all of the following:

6 (i) Whether methane was encountered in other than a
7 target formation.

8 (ii) The country of origin and manufacture of
9 tubular steel products used in the construction of the
10 well.

11 (b.2) Trade secret or confidential proprietary
12 information.--When an operator submits its stimulation record
13 under subsection (b.1), the operator may designate specific
14 portions of the stimulation record as containing a trade secret
15 or confidential proprietary information. The department shall
16 prevent disclosure of a designated trade secret or confidential
17 proprietary information to the extent permitted by the act of
18 February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law
19 or other applicable State law.

20 (c) Drill cuttings and core samples.--Upon notification by
21 the department prior to commencement of drilling, the well
22 operator shall collect any additional data specified by the
23 department, including representative drill cuttings and samples
24 from cores taken and any other geological information that the
25 operator reasonably can compile. Interpretation of the data is
26 not required to be filed.

27 (d) Retention and filing.--Data required under subsection
28 (b) (5) and drill cuttings required under subsection (c) shall be
29 retained by the well operator and filed with the department no
30 more than three years after completion of the well. Upon

1 request, the department shall extend the deadline up to five
2 years from the date of completion of the well. The department
3 shall be entitled to utilize information collected under this
4 subsection in enforcement proceedings, in making designations or
5 determinations under section 1927-A of The Administrative Code
6 of 1929 and in aggregate form for statistical purposes.

7 § 3222.1. Hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure
8 requirements.

9 (a) Applicability.--This section applies to hydraulic
10 fracturing of unconventional wells performed on or after the
11 effective date of this section.

12 (b) Required disclosures.--

13 (1) Except as provided under subsection (d), a service
14 provider who performs any part of a hydraulic fracturing
15 treatment and a vendor who provides hydraulic fracturing
16 additives directly to the operator for a hydraulic fracturing
17 treatment shall furnish the operator with the information
18 required under paragraph (2) not later than 60 days after the
19 commencement of the hydraulic fracturing.

20 (2) Within 60 days following the conclusion of hydraulic
21 fracturing, the operator of the well shall complete the
22 chemical disclosure registry form and post the form on the
23 chemical disclosure registry in accordance with regulations
24 promulgated under this chapter in a format that does not link
25 chemicals to their respective hydraulic fracturing additive.

26 (3) If the vendor, service provider or operator claims
27 that the specific identity of a chemical or the concentration
28 of a chemical, or both, are a trade secret or confidential
29 proprietary information, the operator of the well must
30 indicate that on the chemical disclosure registry form, and

1 the vendor, service provider or operator shall submit a
2 signed written statement that the record contains a trade
3 secret or confidential proprietary information. If a chemical
4 is a trade secret, the operator shall include in the chemical
5 registry disclosure form the chemical family or similar
6 description associated with the chemical.

7 (4) At the time of claiming that any of the following
8 are entitled to protection under paragraph (3), a vendor,
9 service provider or operator shall file a signed written
10 statement that the record contains a trade secret or
11 confidential proprietary information:

12 (i) A hydraulic fracturing additive.

13 (ii) A chemical.

14 (iii) A concentration.

15 (iv) Any combination of subparagraphs (i), (ii) and
16 (iii).

17 (5) Unless the information is entitled to protection as
18 a trade secret or confidential proprietary information,
19 information submitted to the department or posted to the
20 chemical disclosure registry shall be a public record.

21 (6) By January 1, 2013, the department shall determine
22 whether the chemical disclosure registry allows the
23 department and the public to search and sort Pennsylvania
24 chemical disclosure information by geographic area, chemical
25 ingredient, chemical abstract service number, time period and
26 operator. If the department determines that there is no
27 reasonable assurance that the registry will allow for
28 searches by geographic area, chemical ingredient, chemical
29 abstract service number, time period and operator, at a date
30 acceptable to the department, the department shall

1 investigate the feasibility of making the information under
2 paragraph (2) available on the department's Internet website
3 in a manner that will allow the department and the public to
4 search and sort the information by geographic area, chemical
5 ingredient, chemical abstract service number, time period and
6 operator, and shall report to the General Assembly whether
7 additional resources may be needed to implement the searches
8 and sorting.

9 (7) A vendor shall not be responsible for any inaccuracy
10 in information that is provided to the vendor by a third-
11 party manufacturer.

12 (8) A service provider shall not be responsible for any
13 inaccuracy in information that is provided to the service
14 provider by the vendor.

15 (9) An operator shall not be responsible for any
16 inaccuracy in information provided to the operator by the
17 vendor or service provider or manufacturer.

18 (10) A vendor, service company or operator shall
19 identify the specific identity and amount of any chemicals
20 claimed to be a trade secret or confidential proprietary
21 information to any health professional who requests the
22 information in writing if the health professional executes a
23 confidentiality agreement and provides a written statement of
24 need for the information indicating all of the following:

25 (i) The information is needed for the purpose of
26 diagnosis or treatment of an individual.

27 (ii) The individual being diagnosed or treated may
28 have been exposed to a hazardous chemical.

29 (iii) Knowledge of information will assist in the
30 diagnosis or treatment of an individual.

1 (11) If a health professional determines that a medical
2 emergency exists and the specific identity and amount of any
3 chemicals claimed to be a trade secret or confidential
4 proprietary information are necessary for emergency
5 treatment, the vendor, service provider or operator shall
6 immediately disclose the information to the health
7 professional upon a verbal acknowledgment by the health
8 professional that the information may not be used for
9 purposes other than the health needs asserted and that the
10 health professional shall maintain the information as
11 confidential. The vendor, service provider or operator may
12 request, and the health professional shall provide upon
13 request, a written statement of need and a confidentiality
14 agreement from the health professional as soon as
15 circumstances permit, in conformance with regulations
16 promulgated under this chapter.

17 (c) Disclosures not required.--Notwithstanding any other
18 provision of this chapter, a vendor, service provider or
19 operator shall not be required to do any of the following:

20 (1) Disclose chemicals that are not disclosed to it by
21 the manufacturer, vendor or service provider.

22 (2) Disclose chemicals that were not intentionally added
23 to the stimulation fluid.

24 (3) Disclose chemicals that occur incidentally or are
25 otherwise unintentionally present in trace amounts, may be
26 the incidental result of a chemical reaction or chemical
27 process or may be constituents of naturally occurring
28 materials that become part of a stimulation fluid.

29 (d) Trade secrets and confidential proprietary
30 information.--

1 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
2 a vendor, service company or operator shall not be required
3 to disclose trade secrets or confidential proprietary
4 information to the chemical disclosure registry.

5 (2) The following shall apply:

6 (i) If the specific identity of a chemical, the
7 concentration of a chemical or both the specific identity
8 and concentration of a chemical are claimed to be a trade
9 secret or confidential proprietary information, the
10 vendor, service provider or operator may withhold the
11 specific identity, the concentration, or both the
12 specific identity and concentration, of the chemical from
13 the information provided to the chemical disclosure
14 registry.

15 (ii) Nothing under this paragraph shall prohibit any
16 of the following from obtaining from a vendor, service
17 provider or operator information that may be needed to
18 respond to a spill or release:

19 (A) The department.

20 (B) A public health official.

21 (C) An emergency manager.

22 (D) A responder to a spill, release or a
23 complaint from a person who may have been directly
24 and adversely affected or aggrieved by the spill or
25 release.

26 (iii) Upon receipt of a written statement of need
27 for the information under subparagraph (ii), the
28 information shall be disclosed by the vendor, service
29 provider or operator to the requesting official or entity
30 authorized under subparagraph (ii) and shall not be a

1 public record.

2 (e) Disclosure prevented.--The department shall prevent
3 disclosure of trade secrets or confidential proprietary
4 information under this section pursuant to the requirements of
5 the Right-to-Know Law or other applicable State law.

6 (f) Well reporting.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
7 law, nothing in this section shall be construed to reduce or
8 modify the disclosure requirements for conventional well
9 operators contained in 25 Pa. Code Ch. 78 Subch. E (relating to
10 well reporting).

11 § 3223. Notification and effect of well transfer.

12 The owner or operator of a well shall notify the department
13 in writing within 30 days, in a form directed by regulation, of
14 sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance or exchange by or to the
15 owner of the well. A transfer shall not relieve the well owner
16 or operator of an obligation accrued under this chapter, nor
17 shall it relieve the owner or operator of an obligation to plug
18 the well until the requirements of section 3225 (relating to
19 bonding) have been met, at which time the transferring owner or
20 operator shall be relieved from all obligations under this
21 chapter, including the obligation to plug the well.

22 § 3224. Coal operator responsibilities.

23 (a) General rule.--At any time prior to removing coal or
24 other underground materials from, or extending the workings in,
25 a coal mine within 500 feet of an oil or gas well of which the
26 coal operator has knowledge, or within 500 feet of an approved
27 well location of which the coal operator has knowledge, the coal
28 operator, by certified mail, shall forward to or file with the
29 well operator and the department a copy of the relevant part of
30 all maps and plans which it is presently required by law to

prepare and file with the department, showing the pillar which
the coal operator proposes to leave in place around each oil or
gas well in the projected workings. Thereafter, the coal
operator may proceed with mining operations in the manner
projected on the maps and plans, but the operator may not remove
coal or cut a passageway within 150 feet of the well or approved
well location without written approval under this section. If,
in the opinion of the well operator or the department, the plan
indicates that the proposed pillar is inadequate to protect
either the integrity of the well or public health and safety,
the affected well operator shall attempt to reach an agreement
with the coal operator on a suitable pillar, subject to approval
of the department. Upon failure to agree, the well operator may,
within ten days after receipt of the proposed plan under this
section, file objections under section 3251 (relating to
conferences), indicating the size of the pillar to be left as to
each well. If objections are not timely filed and the department
has none, the department shall grant approval, reciting that
maps and plans have been filed, no objections have been made
thereto and the pillar proposed to be left for each well is
approved in the manner as projected.

(b) Objections.--If an objection is filed by the well
operator or raised by the department, the department shall order
that a conference be held under section 3251 within ten days of
the filing of objections. At the conference, the coal operator
and the person who has objected shall attempt to agree on a
proposed plan, showing the pillar to be left around each well,
which will satisfy the objections and receive department
approval. If an agreement is reached, the department shall grant
approval to the coal operator, reciting that a plan has been

1 filed and the pillar to be left for each well is approved
2 pursuant to the agreement. If an agreement is not reached on a
3 plan showing the pillar to be left with respect to a well, the
4 department, by appropriate order, shall determine the pillar to
5 be left with respect to the well. In a proceeding under this
6 section, the department shall follow as nearly as is possible
7 the original plan filed by the coal operator. The department
8 shall not require the coal operator to leave a pillar in excess
9 of 100 feet in radius, except that the department may require a
10 pillar of up to 150 feet in radius if the existence of unusual
11 conditions is established. Pillars determined by the department
12 shall be shown on maps or plans on file with the department as
13 provided in subsection (a), and the department shall approve the
14 pillar to be left for each well.

15 (c) Pillars of reduced size.--Application may be made at any
16 time to the department by the coal operator to leave a pillar of
17 a size smaller than shown on the plan approved or determined by
18 the department under this section. If an application is filed,
19 the department shall:

20 (1) follow the appropriate procedure under subsection
21 (a) or (b);

22 (2) by appropriate order, determine a plan involving a
23 pillar of a smaller size as to any well covered by the
24 application; and

25 (3) have the discretion to grant approval for the pillar
26 to be left with respect to each well.

27 (d) Violation.--No coal operator, without written approval
28 of the department after notice and opportunity for a hearing
29 under this section, shall remove coal or cut a passageway so as
30 to leave a pillar of smaller size, with respect to an oil or gas

1 well, than that approved by the department under this chapter.

2 (e) Limitation.--With regard to a coal pillar required by
3 law to be left around a well drilled prior to April 18, 1985,
4 nothing in this chapter shall be construed to:

5 (1) require a well operator to pay for the coal pillar;

6 (2) affect a right which a coal operator may have had
7 prior to April 18, 1985, to obtain payment for the coal
8 pillar; or

9 (3) affect a duty or right which a storage operator or
10 landowner may have had prior to April 18, 1985, to pay or not
11 pay for the coal pillar.

12 (f) Mining through plugged wells.--A coal operator who
13 intends to mine through a plugged oil or gas well or otherwise
14 completely remove any pillar from around that well shall file a
15 plan under subsection (a) which shall be subject to all of the
16 provisions of this section. No coal operator may mine through a
17 plugged oil or gas well of which he has knowledge until written
18 approval has been granted by the department in accordance with
19 this section. The Bureau of Deep Mine Safety in the department
20 shall have the authority to establish conditions under which the
21 department may approve a coal operator's plan to mine through a
22 plugged oil or gas well.

23 § 3225. Bonding.

24 (a) General rule.--The following shall apply:

25 (1) Except as provided in subsection (d), upon filing an
26 application for a well permit, and before continuing to
27 operate an oil or gas well, the owner or operator of the well
28 shall file with the department a bond covering the well and
29 well site on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the
30 department. A bond filed with an application for a well

1 permit shall be payable to the Commonwealth and conditioned
2 upon the operator's faithful performance of all drilling,
3 water supply replacement, restoration and plugging
4 requirements of this chapter. A bond for a well in existence
5 on April 18, 1985, shall be payable to the Commonwealth and
6 conditioned upon the operator's faithful performance of all
7 water supply replacement, restoration and plugging
8 requirements of this chapter. The amount of the bond required
9 shall be in the following amounts and may be adjusted by the
10 Environmental Quality Board every two years to reflect the
11 projected costs to the Commonwealth of plugging the well:

12 (i) For wells with a total well bore length less
13 than 6,000 feet:

14 (A) For operating up to 50 wells, \$4,000 per
15 well; but no bond may be required under this clause
16 in excess of \$35,000.

17 (B) For operating 51 to 150 wells, \$35,000 plus
18 \$4,000 per well for each well in excess of 50 wells;
19 but no bond may be required under this clause in
20 excess of \$60,000.

21 (C) For operating 151 to 250 wells, \$60,000 plus
22 \$4,000 per well for each well in excess of 150 wells;
23 but no bond may be required under this clause in
24 excess of \$100,000.

25 (D) For operating more than 250 wells, \$100,000
26 plus \$4,000 per well for each well in excess of 250
27 wells; but no bond may be required under this clause
28 in excess of \$250,000.

29 (ii) For wells with a total well bore length of at
30 least 6,000 feet:

1 (A) For operating up to 25 wells, \$10,000 per
2 well; but no bond may be required under this clause
3 in excess of \$140,000.

4 (B) For operating 26 to 50 wells, \$140,000 plus
5 \$10,000 per well for each well in excess of 25 wells;
6 but no bond may be required under this clause in
7 excess of \$290,000.

8 (C) For operating 51 to 150 wells, \$290,000 plus
9 \$10,000 per well for each well in excess of 50 wells;
10 but no bond may be required under this clause in
11 excess of \$430,000.

12 (D) For operating more than 150 wells, \$430,000
13 plus \$10,000 per well for each well in excess of 150
14 wells; but no bond may be required under this clause
15 in excess of \$600,000.

16 (2) In lieu of individual bonds for each well, an owner
17 or operator may file a blanket bond for the applicable amount
18 under paragraph (1), on a form prepared by the department,
19 covering all of its wells in this Commonwealth, as enumerated
20 on the bond form.

21 (3) Liability under the bond shall continue until the
22 well has been properly plugged in accordance with this
23 chapter and for a period of one year after filing of the
24 certificate of plugging with the department. Each bond shall
25 be executed by the operator and a corporate surety licensed
26 to do business in this Commonwealth and approved by the
27 secretary. In lieu of a corporate surety, the operator may
28 deposit with the department:

29 (i) cash;

30 (ii) certificates of deposit or automatically

1 renewable irrevocable letters of credit, from financial
2 institutions chartered or authorized to do business in
3 this Commonwealth and regulated and examined by the
4 Commonwealth or a Federal agency, which may be terminated
5 at the end of a term only upon 90 days' prior written
6 notice by the financial institution to the permittee and
7 the department;

8 (iii) negotiable bonds of the United States
9 Government or the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Turnpike
10 Commission, the General State Authority, the State Public
11 School Building Authority or any municipality within the
12 Commonwealth; or

13 (iv) United States Treasury Bonds issued at a
14 discount without a regular schedule of interest payments
15 to maturity, otherwise known as Zero Coupon Bonds, having
16 a maturity date of not more than ten years after the date
17 of purchase and at the maturity date having a value of
18 not less than the applicable amount under paragraph (1).
19 The cash deposit, certificate of deposit, amount of the
20 irrevocable letter of credit or market value of the
21 securities shall be equal at least to the sum of the
22 bond.

23 (4) The secretary shall, upon receipt of a deposit of
24 cash, letters of credit or negotiable bonds, immediately
25 place the same with the State Treasurer, whose duty it shall
26 be to receive and hold the same in the name of the
27 Commonwealth, in trust, for the purpose for which the deposit
28 is made.

29 (5) The State Treasurer shall at all times be
30 responsible for custody and safekeeping of deposits. The

1 operator making the deposit shall be entitled from time to
2 time to demand and receive from the State Treasurer, on the
3 written order of the secretary, the whole or any portion of
4 collateral deposited, upon depositing with the State
5 Treasurer, in lieu of that collateral, other collateral of
6 classes specified in this section having a market value at
7 least equal to the sum of the bond, and also to demand,
8 receive and recover the interest and income from the
9 negotiable bonds as they become due and payable.

10 (6) If negotiable bonds on deposit under this subsection
11 mature or are called, the State Treasurer, at the request of
12 the owner of the bonds, shall convert them into other
13 negotiable bonds, of classes specified in this section,
14 designated by the owner.

15 (7) If notice of intent to terminate a letter of credit
16 is given, the department shall give the operator 30 days'
17 written notice to replace the letter of credit with other
18 acceptable bond guarantees as provided in this section. If
19 the owner or operator fails to timely replace the letter of
20 credit, the department shall draw upon and convert the letter
21 of credit into cash and hold it as a collateral bond
22 guarantee.

23 (b) Release.--No bond shall be fully released until the
24 requirements of subsection (a) and section 3223 (relating to
25 notification and effect of well transfer) have been fully met.
26 Upon release of bonds and collateral under this section, the
27 State Treasurer shall immediately return to the owner the
28 specified amount of cash or securities.

29 (c) Noncompliance.--If a well owner or operator fails or
30 refuses to comply with subsection (a), regulations promulgated

1 under this chapter or conditions of a permit relating to this
2 chapter, the department may declare the bond forfeited and shall
3 certify the same to the Attorney General, who shall proceed to
4 enforce and collect the full amount of the bond and, if the well
5 owner or operator has deposited cash or securities as collateral
6 in lieu of a corporate surety, the department shall declare the
7 collateral forfeited and direct the State Treasurer to pay the
8 full amount of the funds into the Well Plugging Restricted
9 Revenue Account or to sell the security to the extent forfeited
10 and pay the proceeds into the Well Plugging Restricted Revenue
11 Account. If a corporate surety or financial institution fails to
12 pay a forfeited bond promptly and in full, the corporate surety
13 or financial institution shall be disqualified from writing
14 further bonds under this chapter or any other environmental law
15 administered by the department. A person aggrieved by reason of
16 forfeiting the bond or converting collateral, as provided in
17 this section, shall have a right to appeal to the Environmental
18 Hearing Board in the manner provided by law. Upon forfeiture of
19 a blanket bond for a violation occurring at one or more well
20 sites, the person whose bond is forfeited shall, within ten days
21 of the forfeiture, submit a replacement bond to cover all other
22 wells of which the person is an owner or operator. Failure to
23 submit the replacement bond constitutes a violation of this
24 section as to each of the wells owned or operated by the person.

25 (d) Alternatives to certain bonds.--The following shall
26 apply:

27 (1) An operator of not more than 200 wells who cannot
28 obtain a bond for a well drilled prior to April 18, 1985, as
29 required under subsection (a), due to inability to
30 demonstrate sufficient financial resources may, in lieu of

1 the bond:

2 (i) Submit to the department a fee in the amount of
3 \$50 per well, a blanket fee of \$500 for ten to 20 wells
4 or a blanket fee of \$1,000 for more than 20 wells, which
5 shall be a nonrefundable fee paid each year that the
6 operator has not filed a bond with the department. All
7 fees collected in lieu of a bond under this subsection
8 shall be used for the purposes authorized by this
9 chapter. The Environmental Quality Board shall have the
10 power, by regulation, to increase the amount of the fees
11 established under this subsection.

12 (ii) Make phased deposits of collateral to fully
13 collateralize the bond, subject to the following:

14 (A) Payment shall be based on the number of
15 wells owned or operated. The operator shall make an
16 initial deposit and make annual deposits in
17 accordance with the schedule in clause (B). Interest
18 accumulated by the collateral shall become a part of
19 the bond until the collateral plus accumulated
20 interest equals the amount of the required bond. The
21 collateral shall be deposited, in trust, with the
22 State Treasurer as provided in this subsection or
23 with a bank selected by the department which shall
24 act as trustee for the benefit of the Commonwealth to
25 guarantee the operator's compliance with the
26 drilling, water supply replacement, restoration and
27 plugging requirements of this chapter. The operator
28 shall be required to pay all costs of the trust.

29 (B) An operator of up to ten existing wells who
30 does not intend to operate additional wells shall

1 deposit \$250 per well and shall, thereafter, annually
2 deposit \$50 per well until the obligations of this
3 section are fully met. An operator of 11 to 25 wells
4 or an operator of up to ten wells who applies for one
5 or more permits for additional wells shall deposit
6 \$2,000 and shall, thereafter, annually deposit \$1,150
7 plus \$150 for each additional well to be permitted
8 that year until the obligations of this section are
9 fully met. An operator of 26 to 50 wells shall
10 deposit \$3,000 and shall, thereafter, annually
11 deposit \$1,300 plus \$400 for each additional well to
12 be permitted that year until the obligations of this
13 section are fully met. An operator of 51 to 100 wells
14 shall deposit \$4,000 and shall, thereafter, annually
15 deposit \$1,500 plus \$400 for each additional well to
16 be permitted that year until the obligations of this
17 section are fully met. Operators of 101 to 200 wells
18 shall deposit \$8,000 and shall, thereafter, annually
19 deposit \$1,600 plus \$1,000 for each additional well
20 to be permitted that year until the obligations of
21 this section are fully met. Operators of more than
22 200 wells shall fully bond their wells immediately.

23 (C) The department shall reduce the amount of
24 phased collateral payments or the period of time over
25 which phased collateral payments shall be made on
26 behalf of owners or operators who, prior to August 1,
27 1992, have paid a fee in lieu of bond under
28 subparagraph (i), and who, by August 1, 1993, choose
29 to enter the phased collateral program under this
30 subparagraph rather than continue to make payments in

1 lieu of bond. Payments made prior to August 1, 1992,
2 in lieu of bond shall not be credited in any other
3 manner, and the department shall not be required to
4 refund the fees. The Environmental Quality Board, by
5 regulation, may change the annual deposits
6 established under clause (B) if necessary to
7 accommodate a change in the amount of the bond
8 required under this section.

9 (2) An operator may continue to pay a fee in lieu of
10 bond or make phased deposits of collateral to fully
11 collateralize the bond so long as the operator does not miss
12 a payment under this subsection and remains in compliance
13 with this chapter. If an operator misses a payment under this
14 subsection, the operator shall:

15 (i) immediately submit the appropriate bond amount
16 in full; or

17 (ii) cease all operations and plug all wells.

18 (d.1) Individuals.--The following shall apply:

19 (1) An individual who is unable to obtain a bond to
20 drill new wells due to inability to demonstrate financial
21 resources may meet the collateral bond requirements of
22 subsection (a) by making phased deposits of collateral to
23 fully collateralize the bond. The individual shall be limited
24 to drilling ten new wells per calendar year and, for each
25 well to be drilled, deposit \$500 and make an annual deposit
26 of 10% of the remaining bond amount for a period of ten
27 years. Interest accumulated shall become a part of the bond
28 until the collateral plus accumulated interest equals the
29 amount of the required bond. The collateral shall be
30 deposited in trust with the State Treasurer under subsection

1 (a) or with a bank selected by the department which shall act
2 as trustee for the benefit of the Commonwealth to guarantee
3 the individual's compliance with the drilling, water supply
4 replacement, restoration and plugging requirements of this
5 chapter. The individual shall pay all costs of the trust.

6 (2) Individuals may continue to use phased collateral to
7 obtain permits if they have not missed a payment for a well
8 drilled under this provision and remain in compliance with
9 this chapter. If an individual misses a payment, the
10 individual shall:

11 (i) immediately submit the appropriate bond amount
12 in full; or

13 (ii) cease all operations and plug all wells.

14 (3) For purposes of this subsection, an "individual"
15 means a natural person doing business under his own name.

16 (e) Reservation of remedies.--All remedies for violations of
17 this chapter, regulations adopted under this chapter and
18 conditions of permits are expressly preserved. Nothing in this
19 section shall be construed as an exclusive penalty or remedy for
20 violations of law. No action taken under this section shall
21 waive or impair any other remedy or penalty provided in law.

22 (f) Change of law.--Owners or operators who have failed to
23 meet the requirements of this section prior to August 1, 1992,
24 shall not be required to make payments under this section on a
25 retroactive basis as a condition of obtaining a permit under
26 this chapter, nor shall the failure be deemed a violation of
27 this chapter.

28 (g) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "well
29 site" means areas occupied by all equipment or facilities
30 necessary for or incidental to drilling, production or plugging

1 a well.

2 § 3226. Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board.

3 (a) Creation of board.--The Oil and Gas Technical Advisory
4 Board is created, consisting of the following members, all of
5 whom shall be chosen by the Governor and shall be residents of
6 this Commonwealth:

7 (1) Three individuals, each of whom shall be:

8 (i) a petroleum engineer;

9 (ii) a petroleum geologist; or

10 (iii) an experienced driller representative of the
11 oil and gas industry with three years of experience in
12 this Commonwealth.

13 (2) One mining engineer from the coal industry with
14 three years of experience in this Commonwealth.

15 (3) One geologist or petroleum engineer with three years
16 of experience in this Commonwealth, who shall be chosen from
17 a list of three names submitted by the Citizens Advisory
18 Council to the Governor and who shall sit as a representative
19 of the public interest.

20 (b) Reimbursement.--Board members shall not receive a salary
21 but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred in
22 the performance of their duties.

23 (c) Majority vote.--All actions of the board shall be by
24 majority vote. The board shall meet as called by the secretary,
25 but not less than semiannually, to carry out its duties under
26 this chapter. The board shall select a chairman and other
27 officers deemed appropriate.

28 (d) Consultation.--The department shall consult with the
29 board in the formulation, drafting and presentation stages of
30 all regulations of a technical nature promulgated under this

chapter. The board shall be given a reasonable opportunity to
review and comment on all regulations of a technical nature
prior to submission to the Environmental Quality Board for
initial consideration. The written report of the board shall be
presented to the Environmental Quality Board with any regulatory
proposal. The chairman of the board shall be invited to
participate in the presentation of all regulations of a
technical nature before the Environmental Quality Board to the
extent allowed by procedures of the Environmental Quality Board.
Nothing herein shall preclude any member of the board from
filing a petition for rulemaking with the Environmental Quality
Board in accordance with procedures established by the
Environmental Quality Board.

§ 3227. Air contaminant emissions.

(a) Natural gas operations.--An owner or operator of a
facility conducting natural gas operations in unconventional
formations including development, production, transmission and
processing shall submit to the department a source report
identifying and quantifying actual air contaminant emissions
from any air contamination source. The report shall include a
description of the methods used to calculate annual emissions.

(b) Air contamination sources.--An owner or operator of a
stationary air contamination source shall complete the reports
required under this section using forms and procedures specified
by the department.

(c) Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.--A
statement under 25 Pa. Code Ch. 135 (relating to reporting of
sources) for nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds
shall be submitted to the department according to the schedule
specified in subsection (d).

1 (d) Time.--The report for 2011 actual emissions shall be
2 submitted to the department on a schedule established by the
3 department. Each year after 2011, the report shall be submitted
4 to the department by March 1 for air contaminant emissions
5 during the preceding calendar year unless a different reporting
6 schedule is required by the Clean Air Act (69 Stat. 322, 42
7 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) or regulations adopted under that act.

8 SUBCHAPTER C

9 UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE

10 Sec.

11 3231. Reporting requirements for gas storage operations.

12 3232. Reporting requirements for coal mining operations.

13 3233. General gas storage reservoir operations.

14 3234. Gas storage reservoir operations in coal areas.

15 3235. Inspection of facilities and records.

16 3236. Reliance on maps and burden of proof.

17 3237. Exemptions and prohibitions.

18 § 3231. Reporting requirements for gas storage operations.

19 (a) General duties.--The following shall apply:

20 (1) A person injecting into or storing gas in a storage
21 reservoir underlying or within 3,000 linear feet of an
22 operating coal mine in a coal seam that extends over the
23 storage reservoir or reservoir protective area shall, within
24 60 days, file with the department a copy of a map and certain
25 data in the form and manner provided in this subsection or as
26 otherwise prescribed by regulation of the department.

27 (2) A person injecting gas into or storing gas in a
28 storage reservoir which is not under or within 3,000 linear
29 feet of, but less than 10,000 linear feet from, an operating
30 coal mine in a coal seam that extends over the storage

1 reservoir or reservoir protective area shall file the map and
2 data within 60 days or a longer period set by departmental
3 regulation.

4 (3) A person proposing to inject or store gas in a
5 storage reservoir located as defined in paragraph (1) or (2)
6 shall file the appropriate required map and data with the
7 department not less than six months prior to starting the
8 actual injection or storage.

9 (4) A map required by this subsection shall be prepared
10 by a competent engineer or geologist, showing:

11 (i) the stratum in which the existing or proposed
12 storage reservoir is or is proposed to be located;

13 (ii) the geographic location of the outside
14 boundaries of the storage reservoir and reservoir
15 protective area;

16 (iii) the location of all known oil or gas wells in
17 the reservoir or within 3,000 linear feet thereof which
18 have been drilled into or through the storage stratum,
19 indicating which have been or are to be cleaned out and
20 plugged or reconditioned for storage along with the
21 proposed location of all additional wells which are to be
22 drilled within the storage reservoir or within 3,000
23 linear feet thereof.

24 (5) The following, if available, shall be furnished for
25 all known oil or gas wells which have been drilled into or
26 through the storage stratum within the storage reservoir or
27 within 3,000 linear feet thereof: name of the operator, date
28 drilled, total depth, depth of production if the well was
29 productive of oil or gas, the initial rock pressure and
30 volume, the depths at which all coal seams were encountered

1 and a copy of the driller's log or other similar information.
2 At the time of the filing of the maps and data, a statement
3 shall be filed:

4 (i) detailing efforts made to determine that the
5 wells shown are accurately located on the map;

6 (ii) affirming that the wells shown represent, to
7 the best of the operator's knowledge, all oil or gas
8 wells which have ever been drilled into or below the
9 storage stratum within the proposed storage reservoir or
10 within the reservoir protective area;

11 (iii) stating whether the initial injection is for
12 testing purposes;

13 (iv) stating the maximum pressure at which injection
14 and storage of gas is contemplated; and

15 (v) providing a detailed explanation of the methods
16 to be used or which previously have been used in
17 drilling, cleaning out, reconditioning and plugging wells
18 in the storage reservoir or within the reservoir
19 protective area.

20 (6) The map and data required to be filed under
21 paragraph (5) shall be amended or supplemented semiannually
22 if material changes occur. The department may require a
23 storage operator to amend or supplement the map or data at
24 more frequent intervals if material changes have occurred
25 justifying the earlier filing.

26 (b) Other reporting requirements.--A person who is injecting
27 gas into or storing gas in a storage reservoir not at the time
28 subject to subsection (a), by a process other than that of
29 secondary recovery or gas recycling, shall, within 60 days, or a
30 longer period set by departmental regulations, file maps and

1 data required by departmental regulation and as follows:

2 (1) A person who, after April 18, 1985, proposes to
3 inject or store gas in a storage reservoir in an area not
4 covered by subsection (a) by a process other than that of
5 secondary recovery or gas recycling shall file the required
6 map and data with the department not less than six months
7 prior to the starting of actual injection or storage.

8 (2) The map shall be prepared by a competent engineer or
9 competent geologist and show:

10 (i) the stratum in which the existing or proposed
11 storage reservoir is or is to be located;

12 (ii) the geographic location of the outside
13 boundaries of the storage reservoir; and

14 (iii) the location of all known oil or gas wells
15 within the reservoir, or within 3,000 linear feet
16 thereof, which have been drilled into or through the
17 storage stratum, indicating which have been or are to be
18 cleaned out and plugged or reconditioned for storage and
19 the proposed location of all additional wells which are
20 to be drilled within the storage reservoir or within
21 3,000 linear feet thereof.

22 (3) The following, if available, shall be furnished for
23 all known oil or gas wells which have been drilled into or
24 through the storage stratum within the storage reservoir or
25 within 3,000 linear feet thereof: name of the operator, date
26 drilled, total depth, depth of production if the well was
27 productive of oil or gas, the initial rock pressure and
28 volume and a copy of the driller's log or other similar
29 information. At the time of the filing of the maps and data,
30 a statement shall be filed:

1 (i) detailing efforts made to determine that the
2 wells shown are accurately located on the map;

3 (ii) affirming that the wells shown represent, to
4 the best of the operator's knowledge, all oil or gas
5 wells which have ever been drilled into or below the
6 storage stratum within the proposed storage reservoir;

7 (iii) stating whether the initial injection is for
8 testing purposes;

9 (iv) stating the maximum pressure at which injection
10 and storage of gas is contemplated; and

11 (v) providing a detailed explanation of the methods
12 to be used or which previously have been used in
13 drilling, cleaning out, reconditioning and plugging wells
14 in the storage reservoir.

15 (4) The map and data required to be filed under
16 paragraph (3) shall be amended or supplemented semiannually
17 if material changes occur. The department may require a
18 storage operator to amend or supplement the map or data at
19 more frequent intervals if material changes have occurred
20 justifying the earlier filing.

21 (c) Political subdivisions.--Storage operators shall give
22 notice to the department of the name of each political
23 subdivision and county in which the operator maintains and
24 operates a gas storage reservoir.

25 (d) Notice to affected persons.--At the time of the filing
26 of maps and data and the filing of amended or supplemental maps
27 or data required by this section, the person filing the
28 information shall give written notice of the filing to all
29 persons who may be affected under the provisions of this chapter
30 by the storage reservoir described in the maps or data. Notices

1 shall contain a description of the boundaries of the storage
2 reservoir. When a person operating a coal mine or owning an
3 interest in coal properties which are or may be affected by the
4 storage reservoir requests, in writing, a copy of any map or
5 data filed with the department, the copy shall be furnished by
6 the storage operator.

7 (e) Outside boundaries.--For purposes of this chapter, the
8 outside boundaries of a storage reservoir shall be defined by
9 the location of those wells around the periphery of the storage
10 reservoir which had no gas production when drilled in the
11 storage stratum. The boundaries shall be originally fixed or
12 subsequently changed if, based on the number and nature of the
13 wells and the geological and production knowledge of the storage
14 stratum, its character, permeability, distribution and operating
15 experience, it is determined in a conference under section 3251
16 (relating to conferences) that modifications should be made.

17 (f) Inapplicability of section.--The requirements of this
18 section shall not apply to the operator of an underground gas
19 storage reservoir so long as the reservoir is located more than
20 10,000 linear feet from an operating coal mine, except that the
21 storage operator shall give notice to the department of the name
22 of each political subdivision and county in which the operator
23 maintains and operates a gas storage reservoir. In political
24 subdivisions and counties where both gas storage reservoirs and
25 coal mines are being operated, the department may request the
26 storage operator to furnish maps showing geographical locations
27 and outside boundaries of the storage reservoirs. The department
28 shall keep a record of the information and promptly notify the
29 coal operator and the storage operator when notified by them
30 that the coal mine and storage reservoir are within 10,000

1 linear feet of each other.

2 § 3232. Reporting requirements for coal mining operations.

3 (a) General rule.--A person owning or operating a coal mine
4 shall file with the department a map prepared and sealed by a
5 competent individual licensed as a professional engineer or
6 professional land surveyor under the provisions of the act of
7 May 23, 1945 (P.L.913, No.367), known as the Engineer, Land
8 Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law, showing the outside
9 coal boundaries of the operating coal mine, the existing
10 workings and exhausted areas and the relationship of the
11 boundaries to identifiable surface properties and landmarks. A
12 person owning or operating an operating coal mine which has been
13 penetrated by a well shall furnish a mine map to the department
14 each year indicating the excavations for the preceding year and
15 the projections for the ensuing year. The map required by this
16 subsection shall be furnished to a person storing or
17 contemplating the storage of gas in the vicinity of operating
18 coal mines, upon written request, by the coal operator, and the
19 person and the department shall thereafter be informed of any
20 boundary changes at the time the changes occur. The department
21 shall keep a record of the information and promptly notify the
22 coal operator and storage operator when notified by them that
23 the coal mine and the storage reservoir are within 10,000 linear
24 feet of each other.

25 (b) Mines near certain reservoirs.--A person owning or
26 operating any coal mine which is or which comes within 10,000
27 linear feet of a storage reservoir and where the coal seam being
28 operated extends over the storage reservoir or reservoir
29 protective area shall, within 45 days after receiving notice
30 from the storage operator of that fact, file with the department

1 and furnish to the person operating the storage reservoir a map
2 in the form required by subsection (a) showing, in addition to
3 the requirements of subsection (a), existing and projected
4 excavations and workings of the operating coal mine for the
5 ensuing 18-month period and the location of oil or gas wells of
6 which the coal operator has knowledge. The person owning or
7 operating the coal mine shall, each six months thereafter, file
8 with the department and furnish to the person operating the
9 storage reservoir a revised map showing any additional
10 excavations and workings, together with the projected
11 excavations and workings for the then ensuing 18-month period,
12 which may be within 10,000 linear feet of the storage reservoir.
13 The department may require a coal operator to file revised maps
14 at more frequent intervals if material changes have occurred
15 justifying earlier filing. The person owning or operating the
16 coal mine shall also file with the department and furnish the
17 person operating the reservoir prompt notice of any wells which
18 have been cut into, together with all available pertinent
19 information.

20 (c) Mines near gas storage reservoirs.--A person owning or
21 operating a coal mine who has knowledge that it overlies or is
22 within 2,000 linear feet of a gas storage reservoir shall,
23 within 30 days, notify the department and the storage operator
24 of that fact.

25 (d) Mines projected to be near storage reservoirs.--When a
26 person owning or operating a coal mine expects that, within the
27 ensuing nine-month period, the coal mine will be extended to a
28 point which will be within 2,000 linear feet of any storage
29 reservoir, the person shall notify the department and storage
30 operator in writing of that fact.

1 (e) New mines.--A person intending to establish or
2 reestablish an operating coal mine which will be over a storage
3 reservoir or within 2,000 linear feet of a storage reservoir or
4 may, within nine months thereafter, be expected to be within
5 2,000 linear feet of a storage reservoir shall immediately
6 notify the department and storage operator in writing. Notice
7 shall include the date on which the person intends to establish
8 or reestablish the operating coal mine.

9 (f) Misdemeanor.--A person who serves notice as required by
10 this subsection of an intention to establish or reestablish an
11 operating coal mine, without intending in good faith to
12 establish or reestablish the mine, is liable for continuing
13 damages to a storage operator injured by the improper notice and
14 commits a misdemeanor subject to the penalties of section 3255
15 (relating to penalties).

16 § 3233. General gas storage reservoir operations.

17 (a) General rule.--A person who operates or proposes to
18 operate a storage reservoir, except one filled by the secondary
19 recovery or gas recycling process, shall:

20 (1) Use every known method which is reasonable under the
21 circumstances for discovering and locating all wells which
22 have or may have been drilled into or through the storage
23 reservoir.

24 (2) Plug or recondition, as provided in departmental
25 regulations, all known wells drilled into or through the
26 storage reservoir, except to the extent otherwise provided in
27 subsections (b) and (c).

28 (b) Wells to be plugged.--To comply with subsection (a),
29 wells which are to be plugged shall be plugged in the manner
30 specified in section 3220 (relating to plugging requirements).

1 (b.1) Wells plugged prior to enactment of section.--If a
2 well located in the storage reservoir area has been plugged
3 prior to April 18, 1985, and on the basis of data, information
4 and other evidence submitted to the department, it is determined
5 that the plugging was done in the manner required by section
6 3220 or approved as an alternative method under section 3221
7 (relating to alternative methods) and the plugging is still
8 sufficiently effective to meet the requirements of this chapter,
9 the obligations under subsection (a) with regard to plugging the
10 well shall be considered to have been fully satisfied.

11 (c) Wells to be reconditioned.--The following shall apply:

12 (1) To comply with subsection (a), wells which are to be
13 reconditioned shall, unless the department by regulation
14 specifies a different procedure, be cleaned out from the
15 surface through the storage horizon, and the producing casing
16 and casing strings determined not to be in good physical
17 condition shall be replaced with new casing, using the same
18 procedure as is applicable to drilling a new well under this
19 chapter. In the case of wells to be used for gas storage, the
20 annular space between each string of casing and the annular
21 space behind the largest diameter casing to the extent
22 possible shall be filled to the surface with cement or
23 bentonitic mud or a nonporous material approved by the
24 department under section 3221. At least 15 days prior to
25 reconditioning, the storage operator shall give notice to the
26 department, setting forth in the notice the manner in which
27 it is planned to recondition the well and any pertinent data
28 known to the storage operator which will indicate the
29 condition of the well existing at that time. In addition, the
30 storage operator shall give the department at least 72 hours'

1 notice of the time when reconditioning is to begin. If no
2 objections are raised by the department within ten days, the
3 storage operator may proceed with reconditioning in
4 accordance with the plan as submitted. If objections are made
5 by the department, the department may fix a time and place
6 for a conference under section 3251 (relating to conferences)
7 at which the storage operator and department shall endeavor
8 to agree on a plan to satisfy the objections and meet the
9 requirements of this section. If no agreement is reached, the
10 department may, by an appropriate order, determine whether
11 the plan as submitted meets the requirements of this section
12 or what changes, if any, are required. If, in reconditioning
13 a well in accordance with the plan, physical conditions are
14 encountered which justify or necessitate a change in the
15 plan, the storage operator may request that the plan be
16 changed. If the request is denied, the department shall fix a
17 conference under section 3251 and proceed in the same manner
18 as with original objections. An application may be made in
19 the manner prescribed by section 3221 for approval of an
20 alternative method of reconditioning a well. If a well
21 located within the storage reservoir was reconditioned, or
22 drilled and equipped, prior to April 18, 1985, the
23 obligations imposed by subsection (a), as to reconditioning
24 the well, shall be considered fully satisfied if, on the
25 basis of the data, information and other evidence submitted
26 to the department, it is determined that:

27 (i) The conditioning or previous drilling and
28 equipping was done in the manner required in this
29 subsection, in regulations promulgated under this chapter
30 or in a manner approved as an alternative method in

1 accordance with section 3221.

2 (ii) The reconditioning or previous drilling and
3 equipping is still sufficiently effective to meet the
4 requirements of this chapter.

5 (2) If a well requires emergency repairs, this chapter
6 shall not be construed to require the storage operator to
7 give any notice required by this subsection before making the
8 repairs.

9 (d) Exception.--The requirements of subsection (a) shall not
10 apply to injection of gas into a stratum when the sole purpose
11 of injection, referred to in this subsection as testing, is to
12 determine whether the stratum is suitable for storage purposes.
13 Testing shall be conducted only in compliance with the following
14 requirements:

15 (1) The person testing or proposing to test shall comply
16 with section 3231 (relating to reporting requirements for gas
17 storage operations) and verify the statement required to be
18 filed by that section.

19 (2) The storage operator shall give at least six months'
20 written notice to the department of the fact that injection
21 of gas for testing purposes is proposed.

22 (3) If the department has objections, the department
23 shall fix a time and place for a conference under section
24 3251, not more than ten days from the date of notice to the
25 storage operator, at which time the storage operator and
26 department shall attempt to resolve the issues presented. If
27 an agreement cannot be reached, the department may issue an
28 appropriate order.

29 (e) Failure to execute lawful order.--In a proceeding under
30 this chapter, if the department determines that an operator of a

storage reservoir has failed to carry out a lawful order issued under this chapter, the department may require the operator to suspend operation of the reservoir and withdraw the gas until the violation is remedied, in which case the storage operator, limited by due diligence insofar as existing facilities utilized to remove gas from the reservoir will permit, shall:

(1) if possible, remove the amount required by the department to be removed; or

(2) in any event, remove the maximum amount which can be withdrawn in accordance with recognized engineering and operating procedures.

(f) Duty of storage reservoir operator.--The following shall apply:

(1) A person owning or operating a storage reservoir subject to this chapter shall have a duty to:

(i) Maintain all wells drilled into or through the reservoir in a condition, and operate them in a manner, sufficient to prevent the escape of gas.

(ii) Operate and maintain the reservoir and its facilities as prescribed by departmental regulations and at a pressure which will prevent gas from escaping, but the pressure shall not exceed the highest rock pressure found to have existed during the production history of the reservoir or another high pressure limit approved by the department after holding a conference under section 3251 based on geological and production knowledge of the reservoir, its character, permeability distribution and operating experience.

(2) The duty under paragraph (1) shall not be construed to include inability to prevent the escape of gas when gas

1 escapes as a result of an act of God or a person not under
2 the control of the storage operator. In that instance, the
3 storage operator shall have a duty to take action reasonably
4 necessary to prevent further escape of gas. This paragraph
5 does not apply to a well which the storage operator failed to
6 locate and make known to the department.

7 § 3234. Gas storage reservoir operations in coal areas.

8 (a) General rule.--A person operating a storage reservoir
9 which underlies or is within 2,000 linear feet of a coal mine
10 operating in a coal seam that extends over the storage reservoir
11 or the reservoir protective area shall:

12 (1) Use every known reasonable method for discovering
13 and locating all wells which have or may have been drilled
14 into or through the storage stratum in the acreage lying
15 within the outside coal boundaries of the operating coal mine
16 overlying the storage reservoir or the reservoir protective
17 area.

18 (2) Plug or recondition, as provided by section 3220
19 (relating to plugging requirements) and subsection (e), all
20 known wells, except to the extent provided in subsections
21 (e), (f), (g) and (h), drilled into or through the storage
22 stratum and located within the portion of the acreage of the
23 operating coal mine overlying the storage reservoir or the
24 reservoir protective area. If an objection is raised as to
25 use of a well as a storage well and after a conference under
26 section 3251 (relating to conferences), it is determined by
27 the department, taking into account all circumstances and
28 conditions, that the well should not be used as a storage
29 well, the well shall be plugged unless, in the opinion of the
30 storage operator, the well may be used as a storage well in

1 the future, in which case, upon approval of the department
2 after taking into account all circumstances and conditions,
3 the storage operator may recondition and inactivate the well
4 rather than plug it.

5 (3) The requirements of paragraph (2) shall be deemed to
6 have been fully complied with if, as the operating coal mine
7 is extended, all wells which from time to time come within
8 the acreage described in paragraph (2) are reconditioned or
9 plugged as provided in section 3220 and subsection (e) or (f)
10 so that, by the time the coal mine has reached a point within
11 2,000 linear feet of the wells, they will have been
12 reconditioned or plugged in accordance with section 3220 and
13 subsection (e) or (f).

14 (b) Verified statement.--A person operating a storage
15 reservoir referred to in subsection (a) shall file with the
16 department and furnish a copy to the person operating the
17 affected operating coal mine a verified statement setting forth:

18 (1) That the map and any supplemental maps required by
19 section 3231(a) (relating to reporting requirements for gas
20 storage operations) have been prepared and filed in
21 accordance with section 3231.

22 (2) A detailed explanation of what the storage operator
23 has done to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1)
24 and (2) and the results of those actions.

25 (3) Such additional efforts, if any, as the storage
26 operator is making and intends to make to locate all wells.

27 (4) Any additional wells that are to be plugged or
28 reconditioned to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(2).

29 (b.1) Order of department.--If the statement required under
30 subsection (b) is not filed by the storage reservoir operator

within the time specified by this chapter or the regulations of the department, the department may order the operator to file the statement.

(c) Procedure.--Within 120 days after receipt of a statement required by this section, the department may direct that a conference be held in accordance with section 3251 to determine whether the requirements of section 3231 and subsection (a) have been fully met. At the conference, if any person believes the requirements have not been fully met, the parties shall attempt to agree on additional actions to be taken and the time for completion, subject to approval of the department. If an agreement cannot be reached, the department shall make a determination and, if the department determines any requirements have not been met, the department shall issue an order specifying in detail the extent to which the requirements have not been met and the actions which the storage operator must complete to meet the requirements. The order shall grant as much time as is reasonably necessary to fully comply. If the storage operator encounters conditions not known to exist at the time of issuance of the order and which materially affect the validity of the order or the ability of the storage operator to comply with it, the storage operator may apply for a rehearing or modification of the order.

(d) Notification.--If, in complying with subsection (a), a storage operator, after filing the statement provided for in subsection (b), plugs or reconditions a well, the storage operator shall notify the department and the coal operator affected, in writing, setting forth facts indicating the manner in which the plugging or reconditioning was done. Upon receipt of the notification, the coal operator or department may request

1 a conference under section 3251.

2 (e) Plugging wells.--In order to meet the requirements of
3 subsection (a), wells which are to be plugged shall be plugged
4 in the manner specified in regulations promulgated under section
5 3211 (relating to well permits). When a well located within the
6 storage reservoir or the reservoir protective area has been
7 plugged prior to April 18, 1985, and, on the basis of the data
8 information and other evidence submitted to the department, it
9 is determined that the plugging was done in the manner required
10 by section 3220, or in a manner approved as an alternative
11 method in accordance with section 3221 (relating to alternative
12 methods), and the plugging is still sufficiently effective to
13 meet the requirements of this chapter, the requirements of
14 subsection (a) as to plugging the well shall be considered to
15 have been fully satisfied.

16 (f) Reconditioned wells.--The following shall apply:

17 (1) In order to comply with subsection (a), unless the
18 department by regulation specifies a different procedure,
19 wells which are to be reconditioned shall be cleaned out from
20 the surface through the storage horizon, and the following
21 casing strings shall be pulled and replaced with new casing,
22 using the procedure applicable to drilling a new well under
23 this chapter:

24 (i) the producing casing;

25 (ii) the largest diameter casing passing through the
26 lowest workable coal seam unless it extends at least 25
27 feet below the bottom of the coal seam and is determined
28 to be in good physical condition, but the storage
29 operator may, instead of replacing the largest diameter
30 casing, replace the next largest casing string if the

1 casing string extends at least 25 feet below the lowest
2 workable coal seam; and

3 (iii) casing strings determined not to be in good
4 physical condition.

5 (2) In the case of a well to be used for gas storage,
6 the annular space between each string of casing and the
7 annular space behind the largest diameter casing, to the
8 extent possible, shall be filled to the surface with cement
9 or bentonitic mud or an equally nonporous material approved
10 by the department under section 3221.

11 (3) At least 15 days before a well is to be
12 reconditioned, the storage operator shall give notice to the
13 department and the coal operator, lessee or owner, setting
14 forth the manner in which reconditioning is planned and
15 pertinent data known to the storage operator which will
16 indicate the current condition of the well, along with at
17 least 72 hours' notice of the date and time when
18 reconditioning will begin. The coal operator, lessee or owner
19 shall have the right to file, within ten days after receipt
20 of the notice, objections to the plan of reconditioning as
21 submitted by the storage operator. If no objections are filed
22 and none are raised by the department within ten days, the
23 storage operator may proceed with reconditioning in
24 accordance with the plan as submitted. If an objection is
25 filed or made by the department, the department shall fix a
26 time and place for a conference under section 3251, at which
27 conference the storage operator and the person having
28 objections shall attempt to agree on a plan of reconditioning
29 that meets the requirements of this section. If no agreement
30 is reached, the department shall, by an appropriate order,

1 determine whether the plan as submitted meets the
2 requirements of this section or what changes should be made
3 to meet the requirements. If, in reconditioning the well in
4 accordance with the plan, physical conditions are encountered
5 which justify or necessitate a change in the plan, the
6 storage operator or coal operator may request that the plan
7 be changed. If the parties cannot agree on a change, the
8 department shall arrange for a conference to determine the
9 matter in the same manner as set forth in connection with
10 original objections to the plan.

11 (4) Application may be made to the department in the
12 manner prescribed in section 3221 for approval of an
13 alternative method of reconditioning a well. When a well
14 located within the storage reservoir or the reservoir
15 protective area has been reconditioned or drilled and
16 equipped prior to April 18, 1985, and, on the basis of the
17 data, information and other evidence submitted to the
18 department, the obligations imposed by subsection (a) as to
19 reconditioning the well shall be considered to be fully
20 satisfied if it is determined that reconditioning or previous
21 drilling and equipping:

22 (i) was done in the manner required in this
23 subsection, or in regulations promulgated hereunder, or
24 in a manner approved as an alternative method in
25 accordance with section 3221; or

26 (ii) is still sufficiently effective to meet the
27 requirements of this chapter.

28 (5) If a well requires emergency repairs, this
29 subsection shall not be construed to require the storage
30 operator to give the notices specified herein before making

1 the repairs.

2 (g) Producing wells.--If a well located within the reservoir
3 protective area is a producing well in a stratum below the
4 storage stratum, the obligations imposed by subsection (a) shall
5 not begin until the well ceases to be a producing well.

6 (h) Certain other wells.--If a well within a storage
7 reservoir or reservoir protective area penetrates the storage
8 stratum but does not penetrate the coal seam being mined by an
9 operating coal mine, the department may, upon application of the
10 operator of the storage reservoir, exempt the well from the
11 requirements of this section. Either party affected may request
12 a conference under section 3251 with respect to exemption of a
13 well covered by this subsection.

14 (i) Plugging limitation.--In fulfilling the requirements of
15 subsection (a) (2) with respect to a well within the reservoir
16 protective area, the storage operator shall not be required to
17 plug or recondition the well until the storage operator has
18 received from the coal operator written notice that the mine
19 workings will, within the period stated in the notice, be within
20 2,000 linear feet of the well. Upon the receipt of the notice,
21 the storage operator shall use due diligence to complete the
22 plugging or reconditioning of the well in accordance with the
23 requirements of this section and section 3220. If the mine
24 workings do not, within a period of three years after the well
25 has been plugged, come within 2,000 linear feet of the well, the
26 coal operator shall reimburse the storage operator for the cost
27 of plugging, provided that the well is still within the
28 reservoir protective area as of that time.

29 (j) Retreat mining.--If retreat mining approaches a point
30 where, within 90 days, it is expected that the retreat work will

1 be at the location of the pillar surrounding an active storage
2 well, the coal operator shall give written notice to the storage
3 operator, and by agreement, the parties shall determine whether
4 it is necessary or advisable to effectively and temporarily
5 inactivate the well. The well shall not be reactivated until a
6 reasonable period, determined by the parties, has elapsed. If
7 the parties cannot agree as required by this subsection, the
8 matter shall be submitted to the department for resolution. The
9 number of wells required to be temporarily inactivated during
10 the retreat period shall not be of a number that materially
11 affects efficient operation of the storage pool, except that
12 this provision shall not preclude temporary inactivation of a
13 particular well if the practical effect of inactivating it is to
14 render the pool temporarily inoperative.

15 (k) Exceptions.--The requirements of subsections (a), (l)
16 and (m) shall not apply to injection of gas into a stratum when
17 the whole purpose of injection, referred to in this subsection
18 as testing, is to determine whether the stratum is suitable for
19 storage purposes. Testing shall be conducted only in compliance
20 with the following requirements:

21 (1) The person testing or proposing to test shall comply
22 with all provisions and requirements of section 3231 and
23 verify the statement required to be filed by that section.

24 (2) If any part of the proposed storage reservoir is
25 under or within 2,000 linear feet of an operating coal mine
26 which is operating in a coal seam that extends over the
27 proposed storage reservoir or the reservoir protective area,
28 the storage operator shall give at least six months' written
29 notice to the department and coal operator of the fact that
30 injection of gas for testing purposes is proposed.

1 (3) The coal operator affected may at any time file
2 objections with the department, whereupon the department
3 shall fix a time and place for a conference under section
4 3251, not more than ten days from the date of the notice to
5 the storage operator. At the conference, the storage operator
6 and the objecting party shall attempt to agree, subject to
7 approval of the department, on the questions involved. If an
8 agreement cannot be reached, the department may issue an
9 appropriate order.

10 (4) If at any time a proposed storage reservoir being
11 tested comes under or within 2,000 linear feet of an
12 operating coal mine because of extension of the storage
13 reservoir being tested or because of extension or
14 establishment or reestablishment of the operating coal mine,
15 the requirements of this subsection shall immediately become
16 applicable to the testing.

17 (1) Storage reservoirs near operating coal mines.--A person
18 who proposes to establish a storage reservoir under or within
19 2,000 linear feet of a coal mine operating in a coal seam that
20 extends over the storage reservoir or the reservoir protective
21 area shall, prior to establishing the reservoir, and in addition
22 to complying with section 3231 and subsection (a), file the
23 verified statement required by subsection (b) and fully comply
24 with any order of the department in the manner provided under
25 subsection (b) or (c) before commencing operation of the storage
26 reservoir. After the person proposing to operate the storage
27 reservoir complies with the requirements of this subsection and
28 commences operations, the person shall continue to be subject to
29 all provisions of this chapter.

30 (m) Gas storage reservoirs.--If a gas storage reservoir is

1 in operation on April 18, 1985, and at any time thereafter it is
2 under or within 2,000 linear feet of an operating coal mine, or
3 if a gas storage reservoir is put in operation after April 18,
4 1985, and at any time after storage operations begin it is under
5 or within 2,000 linear feet of an operating coal mine, the
6 storage operator shall comply with all of the provisions of this
7 section, except that:

8 (1) the time for filing the verified statement under
9 subsection (b) shall be 60 days after the date stated in the
10 notice filed by the coal operator under section 3232(d) and
11 (e) (relating to reporting requirements for coal mining
12 operations);

13 (2) the coal operator shall give notice of the delay to
14 the department;

15 (3) the department shall, upon the request of the
16 storage operator, extend the time for filing the statement by
17 the additional time which will be required to extend or
18 establish or reestablish the operating coal mine to a point
19 within 2,000 linear feet of the reservoir;

20 (4) the verified statement shall also indicate that the
21 map referred to in section 3231(a) has been currently amended
22 as of the time of the filing of the statement; and

23 (5) the person operating the storage reservoir shall
24 continue to be subject to all of the provisions of this
25 chapter.

26 (n) Failure to comply with order.--If, in any proceeding
27 under this chapter, the department determines that an operator
28 of a storage reservoir has failed to comply with a lawful order
29 issued under this chapter, the department may require the
30 storage operator to suspend operation of the reservoir and

withdraw the gas from it until the violation is remedied, in
which case the storage operator, limited by due diligence
insofar as existing facilities utilized to remove gas from the
reservoir will permit, shall:

(1) if possible, remove the amount required by the
department to be removed; or

(2) in any event, remove the maximum amount which can be
withdrawn in accordance with recognized engineering and
operating procedures.

(o) Prevention of escape of gas.--In addition to initial
compliance with other provisions of this chapter and lawful
orders issued under this chapter, it shall be the duty, at all
times, of a person owning or operating a storage reservoir
subject to this chapter to keep all wells drilled into or
through the storage stratum in a condition, and operate the
wells in a manner, which is designed to prevent the escape of
gas out of the storage reservoir and its facilities, and to
operate and maintain the storage reservoir and its facilities in
the manner prescribed by regulation of the department and at a
pressure that will prevent gas from escaping from the reservoir
or its facilities. This duty shall not be construed to include
inability to prevent the escape of gas when escape results from
an act of God or a person not under the control of the storage
operator, except that this exception does not apply to a well
which the storage operator has failed to locate and make known
to the department. If an escape of gas results from an act of
God or a person not under the control of the storage operator,
the storage operator shall be under the duty to take any action
reasonably necessary to prevent further escape of gas out of the
storage reservoir and its facilities.

1 § 3235. Inspection of facilities and records.

2 (a) General rule.--The person operating a storage reservoir
3 affected by this chapter shall, at all reasonable times, be
4 permitted to inspect applicable records and facilities of a coal
5 mine overlying the storage reservoir or reservoir protective
6 area. The person operating a coal mine affected by this chapter
7 shall, at all reasonable times, be permitted to inspect
8 applicable records and facilities of a storage reservoir
9 underlying the coal mine.

10 (b) Order.--If a storage operator or coal operator subject
11 to subsection (a) refuses to permit inspection of records or
12 facilities, the department may, on its own motion or on
13 application of the party seeking inspection, after reasonable
14 written notice and a hearing if requested by an affected party,
15 order inspection.

16 § 3236. Reliance on maps and burden of proof.

17 (a) General rule.--In determining whether a coal mine or
18 operating coal mine is or will be within a particular distance
19 from a storage reservoir which is material under this chapter,
20 the owner or operator of the coal mine and the storage operator
21 may rely on the most recent map of the storage reservoir or coal
22 mine filed by the other party with the department.

23 (b) Accuracy.--Where accuracy of a map or data filed under
24 this chapter is in issue, the person that filed the map or data
25 shall:

26 (1) at the request of an objecting party, disclose the
27 information and method used to compile the map or data, along
28 with any information available to the person that might
29 affect current validity of the map or data; and

30 (2) have the burden of proving accuracy of the map or

data.

§ 3237. Exemptions and prohibitions.

(a) Inapplicability of chapter to certain coal mines.--This chapter shall not apply to the following types of coal mines:

(1) Strip mines and auger mines operating from the surface.

(2) Mines to which the former act of June 9, 1911 (P.L.756, No.319), entitled "An act to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the bituminous coal-mines of Pennsylvania, and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith," did not apply in accordance with section 3 of that act.

(3) Mines to which the former act of June 2, 1891 (P.L.176, No.177), entitled "An act to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith," did not apply in accordance with section 32 of that act.

(b) Workable coal seams.--Injection of gas for storage purposes in a workable coal seam, whether or not it is being or has been mined, is prohibited.

(b.1) Original extraction.--Nothing in this chapter prohibits original extraction of natural gas, crude oil or coal.

(c) Certain rock formations.--Nothing in this chapter applies to storage of gas or liquids in storage reservoirs excavated in rock formations specifically for storage purposes.

SUBCHAPTER D

EMINENT DOMAIN

Sec.

3241. Appropriation of interest in real property.

1 § 3241. Appropriation of interest in real property.

2 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in this subsection, a
3 corporation empowered to transport, sell or store natural gas or
4 manufactured gas in this Commonwealth may appropriate an
5 interest in real property located in a storage reservoir or
6 reservoir protective area for injection, storage and removal
7 from storage of natural gas or manufactured gas in a stratum
8 which is or previously has been commercially productive of
9 natural gas. The right granted by this subsection shall not be
10 exercised to acquire any of the following for the purpose of gas
11 storage:

12 (1) An interest in a geological stratum within the area
13 of a proposed storage reservoir or reservoir protective area:

14 (i) unless the original recoverable oil or gas
15 reserves in the proposed storage reservoir have been
16 depleted or exhausted by at least 80%; and

17 (ii) until the condemnor has acquired the right, by
18 grant, lease or other agreement, to store gas in the
19 geological stratum underlying at least 75% of the area of
20 the proposed storage reservoir.

21 (2) An interest in a geological stratum within the area
22 of a proposed storage reservoir or reservoir protective area
23 owned directly or indirectly by a gas company or other person
24 engaged in local distribution of natural gas, if the interest
25 to be acquired is presently being used by the gas company or
26 other person for storage of gas in performance of service to
27 customers in its service area.

28 (b) Construction.--The following shall apply:

29 (1) This chapter authorizes appropriation within a
30 storage reservoir or reservoir protective area of the

1 following:

2 (i) a stratum to be used for storage;

3 (ii) any gas reserve remaining a stratum to be used
4 for storage;

5 (iii) an active or abandoned well or wells drilled
6 into a stratum to be used for storage; and

7 (iv) the right to enter upon and use the surface of
8 lands to:

9 (A) locate, recondition, maintain, plug or
10 replug an active or abandoned well; or

11 (B) operate a well drilled into or through a
12 stratum to be used for storage.

13 (2) This chapter does not preclude the owner of
14 nonstorage strata from drilling wells to produce oil or gas
15 from a stratum above or below the storage stratum
16 appropriated by another person, but a person appropriating or
17 holding storage rights may access, inspect and examine the
18 drilling, the completed well, drilling logs and other records
19 relating to drilling, equipping or operating the well in
20 order to determine whether the storage stratum is being
21 adequately protected to prevent escape of gas stored therein.

22 (3) This chapter does not authorize appropriation of a
23 coal or coal measure, regardless of whether it is being
24 mined, or an interest in the coal mine or coal measure.

25 (c) Activities through appropriated strata.--A person
26 drilling, operating, using or plugging a well through a stratum
27 appropriated under this chapter shall drill, case, equip,
28 operate or plug it in a manner designed to prevent avoidable
29 escape of gas that may be stored in the storage stratum. Upon
30 violation of this subsection, the court of common pleas of the

county where the land in question is situated may compel
compliance by injunction or grant other appropriate relief in an
action brought by the person storing gas in the storage stratum.

(d) Prerequisites to appropriation.--Before appropriating
under this chapter, a person shall attempt to agree with owners
of interests in the real property involved as to damages payable
for rights and interests to be appropriated, if the owners can
be found and are sui juris. If the parties fail to agree, the
person shall tender a surety bond to the owners to secure them
in the payment of damages. If the owners refuse to accept the
bond, cannot be found or are not sui juris, and after reasonable
notice to the owners by advertisement or otherwise, the bond
shall be presented for approval to the court of common pleas of
the county in which the tract of land is situated. Upon the
approval of the bond by the court, the right of the person to
appropriate in accordance with the provisions of this chapter
shall be complete.

(e) Appointment of viewers.--Upon petition of a property
owner or a person appropriating under this chapter, the court
shall:

(1) appoint three disinterested freeholders of the
county to serve as viewers to assess damages to be paid to
the property owner for the rights appropriated;

(2) fix a time for the parties to meet;

(3) provide notice to the parties; and

(4) after the viewers have filed their report, fix
reasonable compensation for the service of the viewers.

(f) Appeal.--Within 20 days after the filing of a report by
viewers appointed under subsection (e), a party may appeal and
proceed to a jury trial as in ordinary cases.

1 (g) Requirements.--Nothing in this section shall relieve a
2 person operating a storage reservoir from the requirements of
3 this chapter.

4 SUBCHAPTER E

5 ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES

6 Sec.

7 3251. Conferences.

8 3252. Public nuisances.

9 3253. Enforcement orders.

10 3254. Restraining violations.

11 3254.1. Well control emergency response cost recovery.

12 3255. Penalties.

13 3256. Civil penalties.

14 3257. Existing rights and remedies preserved and cumulative
15 remedies authorized.

16 3258. Inspection and production of materials, witnesses,
17 depositions and rights of entry.

18 3259. Unlawful conduct.

19 3260. Collection of fines and penalties.

20 3261. Third party liability.

21 3262. Inspection reports.

22 § 3251. Conferences.

23 (a) General rule.--The department or any person having a
24 direct interest in a matter subject to this chapter may, at any
25 time, request that a conference be held to discuss and attempt
26 to resolve by mutual agreement a matter arising under this
27 chapter. Unless otherwise provided, conferences shall be held
28 within 90 days after a request is received by the department,
29 and notice shall be given by the department to all interested
30 parties. A representative of the department shall attend the

1 conference and the department may make recommendations. An
2 agreement reached at a conference shall be consistent with this
3 chapter and, if approved by the department, it shall be reduced
4 to writing and shall be effective, unless reviewed and rejected
5 by the department within ten days after the conference. The
6 record of an agreement approved by the department shall be kept
7 on file by the department and copies shall be furnished to the
8 parties. The scheduling of a conference shall have no effect on
9 the department's authority to issue orders to compel compliance
10 with this chapter.

11 (b) Notification.--When a coal operator is to be notified of
12 a proceeding under this section, the department simultaneously
13 shall send a copy of the notice to the collective bargaining
14 representative of employees of the coal operator.

15 § 3252. Public nuisances.

16 A violation of section 3217 (relating to protection of fresh
17 groundwater and casing requirements), 3218 (relating to
18 protection of water supplies), 3219 (relating to use of safety
19 devices) or 3220 (relating to plugging requirements), or a
20 regulation, order, term or condition of a permit relating to any
21 of those sections constitutes a public nuisance.

22 § 3253. Enforcement orders.

23 (a) General rule.--Except as modified by subsections (b),
24 (c) and (d), the department may issue orders necessary to aid in
25 enforcement of this chapter. An order issued under this chapter
26 shall take effect upon notice, unless the order specifies
27 otherwise. The power of the department to issue an order under
28 this chapter is in addition to any other remedy available to the
29 department under this chapter or under any other law.

30 (b) Suspension and revocation.--

1 (1) The department may suspend or revoke a well permit
2 or well registration for any well:

3 (i) in continuing violation of any of the following:

4 (A) This chapter.

5 (B) The act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394),
6 known as The Clean Streams Law.

7 (C) The act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97),
8 known as the Solid Waste Management Act.

9 (D) Any other statute administered by the
10 department;

11 and

12 (ii) the likely result of a violation is an unsafe
13 operation or environmental damage.

14 (2) A suspension order of the department shall
15 automatically terminate if the violation upon which it is
16 based is corrected by the operator to the satisfaction of the
17 department in order to bring the well into compliance with
18 this chapter.

19 (c) Written notice.--Prior to suspension or revocation of a
20 well permit or registration, the department shall serve written
21 notice on the well operator or its agent, stating specifically
22 the statutory provision, regulation or other reason relied upon,
23 along with factual circumstances surrounding the alleged
24 violation. If the department suspends or revokes the permit or
25 registration, the department may order the operator to cap the
26 well if the likely result of the violation is an unsafe
27 operation or environmental damage.

28 (d) Immediate orders.--An order of the department requiring
29 immediate cessation of drilling operations shall be effective
30 only if authorized by the secretary or a designee.

1 (e) Grievances.--A person aggrieved by a department order
2 issued under this section shall have the right, within 30 days
3 of receipt of the notice, to appeal to the Environmental Hearing
4 Board.

5 § 3254. Restraining violations.

6 (a) General rule.--In addition to any other remedy provided
7 in this chapter, the department may institute a suit in equity
8 in the name of the Commonwealth for an injunction to restrain a
9 violation of this chapter or rules, regulations, standards or
10 orders adopted or issued under this chapter and to restrain the
11 maintenance or threat of a public nuisance. Upon motion of the
12 Commonwealth, the court shall issue a prohibitory or mandatory
13 preliminary injunction if it finds that the defendant is
14 engaging in unlawful conduct, as defined by this chapter, or
15 conduct causing immediate and irreparable harm to the public.
16 The Commonwealth shall not be required to furnish bond or other
17 security in connection with the proceeding. In addition to an
18 injunction, the court in equity may level civil penalties as
19 specified in section 3256 (relating to civil penalties).

20 (b) District attorney.--In addition to other remedies in
21 this chapter, upon relation of the district attorney of a county
22 affected, or upon relation of the solicitor of a municipality
23 affected, an action in equity may be brought in a court of
24 competent jurisdiction for an injunction to restrain a violation
25 of this chapter or rules and regulations promulgated under this
26 chapter or to restrain a public nuisance or detriment to health.

27 (c) Concurrent penalties.--Penalties and remedies under this
28 chapter shall be deemed concurrent. Existence or exercise of one
29 remedy shall not prevent the department from exercising another
30 remedy at law or in equity.

1 (d) Jurisdiction.--Actions under this section may be filed
2 in the appropriate court of common pleas or in Commonwealth
3 Court, and those courts are hereby granted jurisdiction to hear
4 actions under this section.

5 § 3254.1. Well control emergency response cost recovery.

6 A person liable for a well control emergency is responsible
7 for all response costs incurred by the department to respond to
8 the well control emergency. In an action before a court of
9 competent jurisdiction, the department may recover all its
10 response costs, including the cost of regaining control of the
11 well, controlling the perimeter of the well site, preparing
12 water sprays, establishing trenches or dikes to capture runoff
13 fluids and providing the resources and equipment needs for the
14 incident.

15 § 3255. Penalties.

16 (a) General violation.--A person violating a provision of
17 this chapter commits a summary offense and, upon conviction,
18 shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to
19 imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or both. Each day during
20 which the violation continues is a separate and distinct
21 offense.

22 (b) Willful violation.--A person willfully violating a
23 provision of this chapter or an order of the department issued
24 under this chapter commits a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
25 shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to
26 imprisonment of not more than one year, or both. Each day during
27 which the violation continues is a separate and distinct
28 offense.

29 (c) Authority.--The department may institute a prosecution
30 against any person or municipality for a violation of this

1 chapter.

2 § 3256. Civil penalties.

3 In addition to other remedies available at law or in equity
4 for a violation of this chapter, a regulation of the department,
5 a departmental order or a permit condition, the department,
6 after a hearing, may assess a civil penalty regardless of
7 whether the violation was willful. The penalty shall not exceed
8 \$25,000 plus \$1,000 for each day during which the violation
9 continues or, in the case of a violation arising from the
10 construction, alteration or operation of an unconventional well,
11 \$75,000 plus \$5,000 for each day during which the violation
12 continues. In determining the amount, the department shall
13 consider willfulness of the violation, damage or injury to
14 natural resources of this Commonwealth or their uses,
15 endangerment of safety of others, the cost of remedying the
16 harm, savings resulting to the violator as a result of the
17 violation and any other relevant factor. When the department
18 proposes to assess a civil penalty, it shall notify the person
19 of the proposed amount of the penalty. The person charged with
20 the penalty must, within 30 days of notification, pay the
21 proposed penalty in full or file an appeal of the assessment
22 with the Environmental Hearing Board. Failure to comply with the
23 time period under this section shall result in a waiver of all
24 legal rights to contest the violation or the amount of the
25 penalty. The civil penalty shall be payable to the Commonwealth
26 and collectible in any manner provided at law for collection of
27 debts. If a violator neglects or refuses to pay the penalty
28 after demand, the amount, together with interest and costs that
29 may accrue, shall become a lien in favor of the Commonwealth on
30 the real and personal property of the violator, but only after

1 the lien has been entered and docketed of record by the
2 prothonotary of the county where the property is situated. The
3 department may transmit to the prothonotaries of the various
4 counties certified copies of all liens. It shall be the duty of
5 each prothonotary to enter and docket the liens of record in the
6 prothonotary's office and index them as judgments are indexed,
7 without requiring payment of costs as a condition precedent to
8 entry.

9 § 3257. Existing rights and remedies preserved and cumulative
10 remedies authorized.

11 Nothing in this chapter stops the Commonwealth or a district
12 attorney from proceeding in a court of law or in equity to abate
13 pollution forbidden under this chapter or a nuisance under
14 existing law. It is hereby declared to be the purpose of this
15 chapter to provide additional and cumulative remedies to control
16 activities related to drilling for, or production of, oil and
17 gas in this Commonwealth, and nothing contained in this chapter
18 abridges or alters rights of action or remedies existing, or
19 which existed previously, in equity or under common or statutory
20 law, criminal or civil. Neither this chapter, the grant of a
21 permit under this chapter nor an act done by virtue of this
22 chapter stops the Commonwealth, in exercising rights under
23 common or decisional law or in equity, from suppressing a
24 nuisance, abating pollution or enforcing common law or statutory
25 rights. No court of this Commonwealth with jurisdiction to abate
26 public or private nuisances shall be deprived of jurisdiction in
27 an action to abate a private or public nuisance instituted by
28 any person on grounds that the nuisance constitutes air or water
29 pollution.

30 § 3258. Inspection and production of materials, witnesses,

1 depositions and rights of entry.

2 (a) General rule.--The department may make inspections,
3 conduct tests or sampling or examine books, papers and records
4 pertinent to a matter under investigation under this chapter to
5 determine compliance with this chapter. For this purpose, the
6 duly authorized agents and employees of the department may at
7 all reasonable times enter and examine any involved property,
8 facility, operation or activity.

9 (a.1) Preoperation inspections.--The operator may not
10 commence drilling activities until the department has conducted
11 an inspection of the unconventional well site after the
12 installation of erosion and sediment control measures. The
13 department may conduct follow-up inspections of well sites and
14 related activities to determine compliance with this chapter.

15 (b) Access.--The owner, operator or other person in charge
16 of a property, facility, operation or activity under this
17 chapter, upon presentation of proper identification and purpose
18 either for inspection or to remediate or otherwise respond to a
19 well control emergency, by agents or employees of the
20 department, shall provide free and unrestricted entry and
21 access. Upon refusal, the agent or employee may obtain a search
22 warrant or other suitable order authorizing entry and
23 inspection, remediation or response. It shall be sufficient to
24 justify issuance of a search warrant authorizing examination and
25 inspection if:

26 (1) there is probable cause to believe that the object
27 of the investigation is subject to regulation under this
28 chapter; and

29 (2) access, examination or inspection is necessary to
30 enforce the provisions of this chapter.

1 (c) Witnesses.--In any part of this Commonwealth, the
2 department may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, examine
3 witnesses, take testimony and compel production of books,
4 records, maps, plats, papers, documents and other writings
5 pertinent to proceedings or investigations conducted by the
6 department under this chapter. Upon refusal to obey a subpoena
7 by any person and on application of the department, a court may
8 enforce a subpoena in contempt proceedings. Fees for serving a
9 subpoena shall be the same as those paid to sheriffs for similar
10 services.

11 (d) Deposition.--The department or a party to a proceeding
12 before the department may cause the deposition of a witness who
13 resides in or outside of this Commonwealth to be taken in the
14 manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil
15 actions.

16 (e) Witness fee.--Witnesses summoned before the department
17 shall be paid the same fees as are paid to witnesses in courts
18 of record of general jurisdiction. Witnesses whose depositions
19 are taken under this chapter, and the officers taking those
20 depositions, shall be entitled to the same fees as those paid
21 for like services in court.

22 (f) Purchasers.--Upon request, a purchaser of oil or gas
23 shall provide the department information necessary to determine
24 ownership of facilities from which the purchaser obtained oil or
25 gas. The information shall be kept confidential for a period of
26 five years, and the department may utilize it in enforcement
27 proceedings. The department may request information under this
28 section only when a well does not comply with section 3211(h)
29 (relating to well permits).

30 § 3259. Unlawful conduct.

1 It shall be unlawful for any person to:

2 (1) Drill, alter, operate or utilize an oil or gas well
3 without a permit or registration from the department as
4 required by this chapter or in violation of rules or
5 regulations adopted under this chapter, orders of the
6 department or a term or condition of a permit issued by the
7 department.

8 (2) Conduct an activity related to drilling for, or
9 production of, oil and gas:

10 (i) contrary to this chapter, rules or regulations
11 adopted under this chapter, an order of the department or
12 a term or condition of a permit issued by the department;
13 or

14 (ii) in any manner as to create a public nuisance or
15 adversely affect public health, safety, welfare or the
16 environment.

17 (3) Refuse, obstruct, delay or threaten an agent or
18 employee of the department acting in the course of lawful
19 performance of a duty under this chapter, including, but not
20 limited to, entry and inspection.

21 (4) Attempt to obtain a permit or identify a well as an
22 orphan well by misrepresentation or failure to disclose all
23 relevant facts.

24 (5) Cause abandonment of a well by removal of casing or
25 equipment necessary for production without plugging the well
26 in the manner prescribed under section 3220 (relating to
27 plugging requirements), except that the owner or operator of
28 a well may temporarily remove casing or equipment necessary
29 for production, but only if it is part of the normal course
30 of production activities.

1 § 3260. Collection of fines and penalties.

2 Fines and penalties shall be collectible in a manner provided
3 by law for collection of debts. If a person liable to pay a
4 penalty neglects or refuses to pay after demand, the amount,
5 together with interest and costs that may accrue, shall be a
6 judgment in favor of the Commonwealth on the person's property,
7 but only after the judgment has been entered and docketed of
8 record by the prothonotary of the county where the property is
9 situated. The department may transmit to prothonotaries of the
10 various counties certified copies of all judgments, and it shall
11 be the duty of each prothonotary to enter and docket them of
12 record in the prothonotary's office and index them as judgments
13 are indexed, without requiring payment of costs as a condition
14 precedent to entry.

15 § 3261. Third party liability.

16 If a person other than a well operator renders a service or
17 product to a well or well site, that person is liable with the
18 well owner or operator for violations of this chapter arising
19 out of and caused by the person's actions at the well or well
20 site, in accordance with State law.

21 § 3262. Inspection reports.

22 The department shall post inspection reports on its publicly
23 accessible Internet website. The inspection reports shall
24 include:

25 (1) The nature and description of violations.

26 (2) The operator's written response to the violation, if
27 available.

28 (3) The status of the violation.

29 (4) The remedial steps taken by the operator or the
30 department to address the violation.

1 SUBCHAPTER F

2 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

3 Sec.

4 3271. Well plugging funds.

5 3272. (Reserved).

6 3273. Effect on department authority.

7 3273.1. Relationship to solid waste and surface mining.

8 3274. Regulations.

9 § 3271. Well plugging funds.

10 (a) Appropriation.--Fines, civil penalties and permit and
11 registration fees collected under this chapter are appropriated
12 to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

13 (b) Surcharge.--To aid in indemnifying the Commonwealth for
14 the cost of plugging abandoned wells, a \$50 surcharge is added
15 to the permit fee established by the department under section
16 3211 (relating to well permits) for new wells. Money collected
17 as a result of the surcharge shall be paid into a restricted
18 revenue account in the State Treasury to be known as the
19 Abandoned Well Plugging Fund and expended by the department to
20 plug abandoned wells threatening the health and safety of
21 persons or property or pollution of waters of this Commonwealth.

22 (c) Orphan Well Plugging Fund.--The following shall apply:

23 (1) A restricted revenue account to be known as the
24 Orphan Well Plugging Fund is created. A \$100 surcharge for
25 wells to be drilled for oil production and a \$200 surcharge
26 for wells to be drilled for gas production are added to the
27 permit fee established by the department under section 3211
28 for new wells. The surcharges shall be placed in the Orphan
29 Well Plugging Fund and expended by the department to plug
30 orphan wells. If an operator rehabilitates a well abandoned

1 by another operator or an orphan well, the permit fee and the
2 surcharge for the well shall be waived.

3 (2) The department shall study its experience in
4 implementing this section and shall report its findings to
5 the Governor and the General Assembly by August 1, 1992. The
6 report shall contain information relating to the balance of
7 the fund, number of wells plugged, number of identified wells
8 eligible for plugging and recommendations as to alternative
9 funding mechanisms.

10 (3) Expenditures by the department for plugging orphan
11 wells are limited to fees collected under this chapter. No
12 money from the General Fund shall be expended for this
13 purpose.

14 § 3272. (Reserved).

15 § 3273. Effect on department authority.

16 This chapter does not affect, limit or impair any right or
17 authority of the department under the act of June 22, 1937
18 (P.L.1987, No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law; the act of
19 January 8, 1960 (1959 P.L.2119, No.787), known as the Air
20 Pollution Control Act; the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375,
21 No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act; or the
22 act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the Solid Waste
23 Management Act.

24 § 3273.1. Relationship to solid waste and surface mining.

25 (a) General rule.--The obligation to obtain a permit and
26 post a bond under Articles III and V of the act of July 7, 1980
27 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the Solid Waste Management Act, and
28 to provide public notice under section 1905-A(b)(1)(v) of the
29 act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The
30 Administrative Code of 1929, for any pit, impoundment, method or

facility employed for the disposal, processing or storage of residual wastes generated by the drilling of an oil or gas well or from the production of wells which is located on the well site, shall be considered to have been satisfied if the owner or operator of the well meets the following conditions:

(1) the well is permitted under the requirements of section 3211 (relating to well permits) or registered under section 3213 (relating to well registration and identification);

(2) the owner or operator has satisfied the financial security requirements of section 3225 (relating to bonding) by obtaining a surety or collateral bond for the well and well site; and

(3) the owner or operator maintains compliance with this chapter and applicable regulations of the Environmental Quality Board.

(b) Noncoal surface mining.--Obligations under the act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1093, No.219), known as the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, or a regulation promulgated under the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, for any borrow area where minerals are extracted solely for the purpose of oil and gas well development, including access road construction, shall be considered to have been satisfied if the owner or operator of the well meets the conditions imposed under subsection (a)(1) and (2) and maintains compliance with this chapter and applicable regulations of the Environmental Quality Board.

(c) Solid Waste Management Act.--This section does not diminish or otherwise affect duties or obligations of an owner or operator under the Solid Waste Management Act. This section

1 does not apply to waste classified as hazardous waste under the
2 Solid Waste Management Act or the Resource Conservation and
3 Recovery Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-580, 90 Stat. 2795, 42
4 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq.).

5 (d) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "well
6 site" means areas occupied by all equipment or facilities
7 necessary for or incidental to drilling, production or plugging
8 a well.

9 § 3274. Regulations.

10 The Environmental Quality Board shall promulgate regulations
11 to implement this chapter.

12 CHAPTER 33

13 LOCAL ORDINANCES RELATING TO

14 OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

15 Sec.

16 3301. Definitions.

17 3302. Oil and gas operations regulated pursuant to Chapter 32.

18 3303. Oil and gas operations regulated by environmental acts.

19 3304. Uniformity of local ordinances.

20 3305. Commission.

21 3306. Civil actions.

22 3307. Attorney fees and costs.

23 3308. Ineligibility.

24 3309. Applicability.

25 § 3301. Definitions.

26 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
27 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
28 context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 "Building." An occupied structure with walls and a roof
30 within which individuals live or customarily work.

1 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.
2 "Environmental acts." All statutes enacted by the
3 Commonwealth relating to the protection of the environment or
4 the protection of public health, safety and welfare, that are
5 administered and enforced by the department or by another
6 Commonwealth agency, including an independent agency, and all
7 Federal statutes relating to the protection of the environment,
8 to the extent those statutes regulate oil and gas operations.

9 "Local government." A county, city, borough, incorporated
10 town or township of this Commonwealth.

11 "Local ordinance." An ordinance or other enactment,
12 including a provision of a home rule charter, adopted by a local
13 government that regulates oil and gas operations.

14 "MPC." The act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as
15 the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

16 "Oil and gas operations." The term includes the following:

17 (1) well location assessment, including seismic
18 operations, well site preparation, construction, drilling,
19 hydraulic fracturing and site restoration associated with an
20 oil or gas well of any depth;

21 (2) water and other fluid storage or impoundment areas
22 used exclusively for oil and gas operations;

23 (3) construction, installation, use, maintenance and
24 repair of:

25 (i) oil and gas pipelines;

26 (ii) natural gas compressor stations; and

27 (iii) natural gas processing plants or facilities
28 performing equivalent functions; and

29 (4) construction, installation, use, maintenance and
30 repair of all equipment directly associated with activities

1 specified in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), to the extent that:

2 (i) the equipment is necessarily located at or
3 immediately adjacent to a well site, impoundment area,
4 oil and gas pipeline, natural gas compressor station or
5 natural gas processing plant; and

6 (ii) the activities are authorized and permitted
7 under the authority of a Federal or Commonwealth agency.

8 "Permitted use." A use which, upon submission of written
9 notice to and receipt of a permit issued by a zoning officer or
10 equivalent official, is authorized to be conducted without
11 restrictions other than those set forth in section 3304
12 (relating to uniformity of local ordinances).

13 § 3302. Oil and gas operations regulated pursuant to Chapter
14 32.

15 Except with respect to local ordinances adopted pursuant to
16 the MPC and the act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.851, No.166), known
17 as the Flood Plain Management Act, all local ordinances
18 purporting to regulate oil and gas operations regulated by
19 Chapter 32 (relating to development) are hereby superseded. No
20 local ordinance adopted pursuant to the MPC or the Flood Plain
21 Management Act shall contain provisions which impose conditions,
22 requirements or limitations on the same features of oil and gas
23 operations regulated by Chapter 32 or that accomplish the same
24 purposes as set forth in Chapter 32. The Commonwealth, by this
25 section, preempts and supersedes the regulation of oil and gas
26 operations as provided in this chapter.

27 § 3303. Oil and gas operations regulated by environmental acts.

28 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, environmental
29 acts are of Statewide concern and, to the extent that they
30 regulate oil and gas operations, occupy the entire field of

regulation, to the exclusion of all local ordinances. The Commonwealth by this section, preempts and supersedes the local regulation of oil and gas operations regulated by the environmental acts, as provided in this chapter.

§ 3304. Uniformity of local ordinances.

(a) General rule.--In addition to the restrictions contained in sections 3302 (relating to oil and gas operations regulated pursuant to Chapter 32) and 3303 (relating to oil and gas operations regulated by environmental acts), all local ordinances regulating oil and gas operations shall allow for the reasonable development of oil and gas resources.

(b) Reasonable development of oil and gas resources.--In order to allow the for the reasonable development of oil and gas resources, a local ordinance:

(1) Shall allow well and pipeline location assessment operations, including seismic operations and related activities conducted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations relating to the storage and use of explosives throughout every local government.

(2) May not impose conditions, requirements or limitations on the construction of oil and gas operations that are more stringent than conditions, requirements or limitations imposed on construction activities for other industrial uses within the geographic boundaries of the local government.

(3) May not impose conditions, requirements or limitations on the heights of structures, screening and fencing, lighting or noise relating to permanent oil and gas operations that are more stringent than the conditions,

1 requirements or limitations imposed on other industrial uses
2 or other land development within the particular zoning
3 district where the oil and gas operations are situated within
4 the local government.

5 (4) Shall have a review period for permitted uses that
6 does not exceed 30 days for complete submissions or that does
7 not exceed 120 days for conditional uses.

8 (5) Shall authorize oil and gas operations, other than
9 activities at impoundment areas, compressor stations and
10 processing plants, as a permitted use in all zoning
11 districts.

12 (5.1) Notwithstanding section 3215 (relating to well
13 location restrictions), may prohibit, or permit only as a
14 conditional use, wells or well sites otherwise permitted
15 under paragraph (5) within a residential district if the
16 well site cannot be placed so that the wellhead is at least
17 500 feet from any existing building. In a residential
18 district, all of the following apply:

19 (i) A well site may not be located so that the outer
20 edge of the well pad is closer than 300 feet from an
21 existing building.

22 (ii) Except as set forth in paragraph (5) and this
23 paragraph, oil and gas operations, other than the
24 placement, use and repair of oil and gas pipelines, water
25 pipelines, access roads or security facilities, may not
26 take place within 300 feet of an existing building.

27 (6) Shall authorize impoundment areas used for oil and
28 gas operations as a permitted use in all zoning districts,
29 provided that the edge of any impoundment area shall not be
30 located closer than 300 feet from an existing building.

1 (7) Shall authorize natural gas compressor stations as a
2 permitted use in agricultural and industrial zoning districts
3 and as a conditional use in all other zoning districts, if
4 the natural gas compressor building meets the following
5 standards:

6 (i) is located 750 feet or more from the nearest
7 existing building or 200 feet from the nearest lot line,
8 whichever is greater, unless waived by the owner of the
9 building or adjoining lot; and

10 (ii) the noise level does not exceed a noise
11 standard of 60dbA at the nearest property line or the
12 applicable standard imposed by Federal law, whichever is
13 less.

14 (8) Shall authorize a natural gas processing plant as a
15 permitted use in an industrial zoning district and as
16 conditional uses in agricultural zoning districts if all of
17 the following apply:

18 (i) The natural gas processing plant building is
19 located at the greater of at least 750 feet from the
20 nearest existing building or at least 200 feet from the
21 nearest lot line unless waived by the owner of the
22 building or adjoining lot.

23 (ii) The noise level of the natural gas processing
24 plant building does not exceed a noise standard of 60dbA
25 at the nearest property line or the applicable standard
26 imposed by Federal law, whichever is less.

27 (9) Shall impose restrictions on vehicular access routes
28 for overweight vehicles only as authorized under 75 Pa.C.S.
29 (relating to vehicles) or the MPC.

30 (10) May not impose limits or conditions on subterranean

1 operations or hours of operation of compressor stations and
2 processing plants or hours of operation for the drilling of
3 oil and gas wells or the assembly and disassembly of drilling
4 rigs.

5 (11) May not increase setback distances set forth in
6 Chapter 32 (relating to development) or this chapter. A local
7 ordinance may impose setback distances that are not regulated
8 by or set forth in Chapter 32 or this chapter if the setbacks
9 are no more stringent than those for other industrial uses
10 within the geographic boundaries of the local government.

11 § 3305. Commission.

12 (a) Advisory opinions to municipalities.--

13 (1) A municipality may, prior to the enactment of a
14 local ordinance, in writing, request the commission to review
15 a proposed local ordinance to issue an opinion on whether it
16 violates the MPC, this chapter or Chapter 32 (relating to
17 development).

18 (2) Within 120 days of receiving a request under
19 paragraph (1), the commission shall, in writing, advise the
20 municipality whether or not the local ordinance violates the
21 MPC, this chapter or Chapter 32.

22 (3) An opinion under this subsection shall be advisory
23 in nature and not subject to appeal.

24 (b) Orders.--

25 (1) An owner or operator of an oil or gas operation, or
26 a person residing within the geographic boundaries of a local
27 government, who is aggrieved by the enactment or enforcement
28 of a local ordinance may request the commission to review the
29 local ordinance of that local government to determine whether
30 it violates the MPC, this chapter or Chapter 32.

1 (2) Participation in the review by the commission shall
2 be limited to parties specified in paragraph (1) and the
3 municipality which enacted the local ordinance.

4 (3) Within 120 days of receiving a request under this
5 subsection, the commission shall issue an order to determine
6 whether the local ordinance violates the MPC, this chapter or
7 Chapter 32.

8 (4) An order under this subsection shall be subject to
9 de novo review by the Commonwealth Court. A petition for
10 review must be filed within 30 days of the date of service of
11 the commission's order. The order of the commission shall be
12 made part of the record before the court.

13 (c) Exemptions.--An opinion under subsection (a) and an
14 order under subsection (b) shall not be subject to:

15 (1) 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5 Subch. A (relating to practice and
16 procedure of Commonwealth agencies);

17 (2) 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings); or

18 (3) 66 Pa.C.S. Ch. 3 Subch. B (relating to
19 investigations and hearings).

20 (d) Authority.--The commission has the following powers to
21 carry out this chapter:

22 (1) Employ individuals.

23 (2) Issue orders.

24 (3) Promulgate regulations.

25 (4) Until January 1, 2013, promulgate temporary
26 regulations. Regulations under this paragraph:

27 (i) shall expire no later than two years following
28 the effective date of this section; and

29 (ii) are exempt from:

30 (A) sections 201, 202 and 203 of the act of July

1 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
2 Commonwealth Documents Law; and

3 (B) the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181),
4 known as the Regulatory Review Act.

5 § 3306. Civil actions.

6 The following shall apply:

7 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 85
8 Subch. C (relating to actions against local parties), any
9 person who is aggrieved by the enactment or enforcement of a
10 local ordinance that violates the MPC, this chapter or
11 Chapter 32 may bring an action in Commonwealth Court to
12 invalidate the ordinance or enjoin its enforcement.

13 (2) An aggrieved person may proceed under this section
14 without first obtaining review of the ordinance by the
15 commission.

16 (3) In an action relating to the enactment or
17 enforcement of a local ordinance, a determination of the
18 commission made under section 3305(b) (relating to
19 commission) shall become part of the record before the court.

20 § 3307. Attorney fees and costs.

21 In an action brought under section 3306 (relating to civil
22 actions), the court may do any of the following:

23 (1) If the court determines that the local government
24 enacted or enforced a local ordinance with willful or
25 reckless disregard of the MPC, this chapter or Chapter 32
26 (relating to development), it may order the local government
27 to pay the plaintiff reasonable attorney fees and other
28 reasonable costs incurred by the plaintiff in connection with
29 the action.

30 (2) If the court determines that the action brought by

1 the plaintiff was frivolous or was brought without
2 substantial justification in claiming that the local
3 ordinance in question was contrary to the MPC, this chapter
4 or Chapter 32, it may order the plaintiff to pay the local
5 government reasonable attorney fees and other reasonable
6 costs incurred by the local government in defending the
7 action.

8 § 3308. Ineligibility.

9 If the commission, the Commonwealth Court or the Supreme
10 Court issues an order that a local ordinance violates the MPC,
11 this chapter or Chapter 32 (relating to development), the
12 municipality enacting or enforcing the local ordinance shall be
13 immediately ineligible to receive any funds collected under
14 Chapter 23 (relating to unconventional gas well fee). The local
15 government shall remain ineligible to receive funds under
16 Chapter 23 until the local government amends or repeals its
17 ordinance in accordance with this chapter or the order or
18 determination that the local ordinance is unlawful is reversed
19 on appeal.

20 § 3309. Applicability.

21 (a) Ordinances.--This chapter shall apply to the enforcement
22 of local ordinances existing on the effective date of this
23 chapter and to the enactment or enforcement of a local ordinance
24 enacted on or after the effective date of this chapter.

25 (b) Local governments.--A local government that has enacted
26 a local ordinance relating to oil and gas operations prior to
27 the effective date of this chapter shall have 120 days from the
28 effective date of this chapter to review and amend an ordinance
29 in order to comply with this chapter.

30 CHAPTER 35

1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEE

2 Sec.

3 3501. Declaration of policy.

4 3502. Prohibition.

5 3503. Existing agreements.

6 3504. Future agreements.

7 § 3501. Declaration of policy.

8 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 (1) The enactment of this chapter is an exercise of the
10 authority of the Commonwealth to safeguard the vital
11 interests of its citizens.

12 (2) This chapter is intended to advance the significant
13 and legitimate public purpose of ensuring that entities
14 responsible for the impacts of unconventional oil and gas
15 well development are solely responsible for payment of impact
16 fees.

17 § 3502. Prohibition.

18 A producer may not make the fee authorized under Chapter 23
19 (relating to unconditional gas well fee) an obligation,
20 indebtedness or liability of a landowner, leaseholder or other
21 person in possession of real property, upon which the removal or
22 extraction occurs.

23 § 3503. Existing agreements.

24 A provision of an agreement in existence prior to the
25 effective date of this section which violates section 3502
26 (relating to prohibition) is declared to be illegal and contrary
27 to public policy and shall be null and void.

28 § 3504. Future agreements.

29 On or after the effective date of this section, a provision
30 of an agreement in violation of section 3502 (relating to

1 prohibition) is declared to be illegal and contrary to public
2 policy and shall be null and void.

3 Section 2. For fiscal year 2011-2012, \$250,000 is
4 appropriated from the General Fund to the Pennsylvania Public
5 Utility Commission for costs associated with implementation of
6 this act.

7 Section 3. Repeals are as follows:

8 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
9 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of 58
10 Pa.C.S. Ch. 32.

11 (2) The act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223),
12 known as the Oil and Gas Act, is repealed.

13 Section 4. The addition of 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 32 and 58 Pa.C.S.
14 § 3302 is a continuation of the act of December 19, 1984
15 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the Oil and Gas Act. The following
16 apply:

17 (1) Except as otherwise provided in 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 32 or
18 33, all activities initiated under the Oil and Gas Act shall
19 continue and remain in full force and effect and may be
20 completed under 58 Pa.C.S. Chs. 32 and 33. Orders,
21 regulations, rules and decisions which were made under the
22 Oil and Gas Act and which are in effect on the effective date
23 of section 3(2) of this act shall remain in full force and
24 effect until revoked, vacated or modified under 58 Pa.C.S.
25 Ch. 32 or 33. Except as provided in 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 35,
26 contracts, obligations and collective bargaining agreements
27 entered into under the Oil and Gas Act are not affected nor
28 impaired by the repeal of the Oil and Gas Act.

29 (2) Except as set forth in paragraph (3), any difference
30 in language between 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 32 and the Oil and Gas Act

1 is intended only to conform to the style of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes and is not intended to change or affect
3 the legislative intent, judicial construction or
4 administration and implementation of the Oil and Gas Act.

5 (3) Paragraph (2) does not apply to the addition of the
6 following provisions of 58 Pa.C.S.:

- 7 (i) Section 3203.
- 8 (ii) Section 3211.
- 9 (iii) Section 3212.1.
- 10 (iv) Section 3215.
- 11 (v) Section 3216.
- 12 (vi) Section 3218.
- 13 (vii) Section 3218.1.
- 14 (viii) Section 3218.2.
- 15 (ix) Section 3218.3.
- 16 (x) Section 3218.4.
- 17 (xi) Section 3218.5.
- 18 (xii) Section 3219.1.
- 19 (xiii) Section 3222.
- 20 (xiv) Section 3222.1.
- 21 (xv) Section 3225.
- 22 (xvi) Section 3227.
- 23 (xvii) Section 3252.
- 24 (xviii) Section 3253.
- 25 (xix) Section 3254.1.
- 26 (xx) Section 3255.
- 27 (xxi) Section 3256.
- 28 (xxii) Section 3258.
- 29 (xxiii) Section 3261.
- 30 (xxiv) Section 3262.

1 (4) Any difference in language between 58 Pa.C.S. § 3302
2 and section 602 of the Oil and Gas Act is intended only to
3 conform to the style of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
4 Statutes and is not intended to change or affect the
5 legislative intent, judicial construction or administration
6 and implementation of section 602 of the Oil and Gas Act.

7 Section 5. The addition of 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 shall apply to
8 all oil and gas deposits and oil and gas development activities
9 and operations subject to the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.
10 With respect to oil and gas deposits on national forest lands
11 identified under section 17(o) of the Mineral Leasing Act (106
12 Stat. 3108, 30 U.S.C. § 226(o)), the application of regulations
13 and statutes adopted by the Commonwealth shall be the exclusive
14 method and means by which any requirements may be imposed on any
15 feature, aspect or process of oil and gas operations pertaining
16 to the development of the deposits.

17 Section 6. It is not the intent of the General Assembly to
18 change, repeal or otherwise affect any of the provisions of the
19 act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1069, No.214), known as the Coal
20 and Gas Resource Coordination Act, or to change, repeal or
21 otherwise affect any of the provisions of the act of January 26,
22 2011 (P.L.7, No.2), entitled "An act amending the act of
23 December 18, 1984 (P.L.1069, No.214), entitled 'An act requiring
24 coordination of coal mine and gas well operators; authorizing
25 Department of Environmental Resources enforcement powers; and
26 providing penalties,' further providing for definitions, for
27 permits, for permit application, for minimum distance between
28 gas wells, for well class designation and for coordination of
29 gas well drilling through active coal mines; providing for a
30 pillar support study; and further providing for plugging gas

1 wells penetrating workable coal seams, for penalties and for
2 validity of other laws," which amended the Coal and Gas Resource
3 Coordination Act.

4 Section 7. Within 90 days of the effective date of this
5 section, the Department of Transportation shall issue a
6 statement of policy, effective upon publication in the
7 Pennsylvania Bulletin, adopting an appropriate methodology to
8 provide letters of local determination that identify particular
9 vehicles, routes or uses as local in nature. The Department of
10 Transportation may determine that hauling related to
11 unconventional oil and gas development is excluded from local
12 traffic status based on its disproportionate and qualitatively
13 different impact upon highways and bridges. The methodology
14 shall allow for exemptions from 67 Pa. Code Ch. 189 (relating to
15 hauling in excess of posted weight limit) related to at-risk
16 industry sectors in this Commonwealth that have experienced a
17 20% or more decline in Statewide employment since 2002 or that
18 demonstrate other evidence of economic decline as determined by
19 the department in consultation with the Department of Labor and
20 Industry. The exemptions and related requirements shall remain
21 in existence until December 31, 2015.

22 Section 8. The Energy Executive of the Governor shall
23 consult with the Department of Environmental Protection, the
24 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, State legislators, local
25 government organizations, natural gas industry representatives,
26 conservationists and other affected entities on the issue of
27 pipeline placement for natural gas gathering lines in this
28 Commonwealth. The Energy Executive of the Governor shall submit
29 a report summarizing pipeline placement for natural gas
30 gathering lines and make his recommendations to the General

1 Assembly within one year of the effective date of this section.

2 Section 9. This act shall take effect as follows:

3 (1) The following provisions shall take effect
4 immediately:

5 (i) The addition of 58 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23.

6 (ii) Section 6 of this act.

7 (iii) Section 7 of this act.

8 (iv) This section.

9 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60
10 days.