

## Educating Our Community About the Natural Gas Industry in 2011

*This column is presented weekly by the Public Education sub-committee of the Clinton County Natural Gas Task Force in an effort to provide accurate, up-to-date information on activities surrounding the Marcellus Shale formation and the natural gas exploration industry.*

Back in August of last year, the Public Education sub-committee of the Clinton County Natural Gas Task Force initiated an effort to provide timely, fact-based information on the emerging natural gas industry in Clinton County and around the state. Since then and with the support of *The Express* community newspaper, this weekly “Gas Facts: Understanding the Marcellus Shale” column has appeared on the editorial page of the local paper each Thursday.

A total of 20 articles have so far been published, covering a wide range of topics related to the Marcellus Shale natural gas play and the movement to drill and capture that natural resource. Jim Ladlee, executive director of the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in Clinton County, has taken the lead in seeing that a column appears in the newspaper each week, along with support from other Public Education sub-committee members. A Natural Gas Task Force Committee member, Ladlee also serves as director of special initiatives for the Marcellus Shale Education and Training Center located at Penn College in Williamsport.

“The purpose of the weekly Gas Facts column is to help people understand what the Marcellus Shale is, to offer information about the natural gas industry, to talk about what’s happening specifically in this area of Pennsylvania with regard to the natural gas industry, and to provide factual information on topics of concern surrounding the industry,” says Ladlee. “So far, the columns have offered details about the Marcellus Shale rock formation, or ‘play,’ and the geology of the formation. We’ve also written about the process known as fracking, new regulations surrounding the drilling process, and protecting private water supplies. Other articles have covered the economic impact, how local businesses have been impacted, and employment opportunities and work force needs within the gas industry. Still other columns have focused on where to find information on drilling permits, wells and production information, the purpose of seismic surveying, the pipeline infrastructure needed for the industry, and the role our local rail system is playing in the Marcellus Shale.”

All of the articles, as well as information about Clinton County’s Natural Gas Task Force, are posted on the Clinton County government web page. To view the information, go to [www.clintoncountypa.com](http://www.clintoncountypa.com) and from the home page, click on the Clinton County Natural Gas Task Force icon.

“More articles are being developed, but as we begin a new year, we’d like to hear what additional information people would be interested in reading and learning about with regard to the natural gas industry,” says Ladlee. “We’re asking for feedback from people so we can take that input into consideration as we write additional articles.”

If you have a suggestion for a natural gas topic you’d like to see covered in the weekly Gas Facts column, contact Jim Ladlee at the Cooperative Extension Office at 570-726-0022, extension 128, or via e-mail at [jrl110@psu.edu](mailto:jrl110@psu.edu).

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**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Lock Haven resident Rich Wykoff on Monday captured the following aerial photographs of several natural gas well locations in the area.





