

Workshop will highlight the municipal impact of Marcellus Shale development

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. For more information on Task Force activities, visit the Task Force page on the Clinton County government website at www.clintoncountypa.com.

Municipal and county leaders are being encouraged to participate in an upcoming workshop that will highlight how Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania has so far impacted municipalities and look at possibilities for the future.

The December 6th program, which is being coordinated by the Penn State Cooperative Extension, will be aired via a video teleconference to a dozen locations – including one site in Lycoming County and another site in Centre County -- across the Commonwealth.

Of the two local locations from which to choose, in Centre County, Penn State's School of Forest Resources, Room 217 at the University Park campus, will be a host site for the workshop. The Pennsylvania College of Technology, 1127 West Fourth Street, Room 133, in Williamsport, will be a host site in Lycoming County. The workshop also will be broadcast to locations in Clearfield, Potter, Tioga, Susquehanna, Bradford, Lackawanna, Beaver, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania has resulted in local municipalities having to make decisions and take actions on issues such as infrastructure, municipal services, regulatory controls and community planning. Municipalities throughout the state have experienced various levels and stages of development as well as the community issues that result. These experiences have provided municipal officials with a unique perspective on how to more effectively address municipal and community needs and concerns related to natural gas issues.

The December 6 workshop will provide a venue for officials to share their breadth of experiences and gained knowledge and skills. By learning about the lessons learned and actions taken by other local officials, participants will be able to draw upon the experiences of others when facing issues and considering decisions.

Utilizing video conferencing and panels of local officials representing Northcentral and Southwest Pennsylvania, this program will provide insight as to how select municipalities have reacted to and are planning for items such as land use, roads, budget and finance, communication needs, community cohesion and the stresses of public office.

The workshop format will feature a facilitated discussion by a panel of municipal leaders, including, Raymond Stolinas, Bradford County planning director, Ron Reagan, chairman of the Athens Township Supervisors in Bradford County, Joseph Reighard, chairman of the Gamble Township Supervisors and president of the Lycoming County Supervisors Association, Jim Morrison, chief administrator for the municipality of Murrysville in Westmoreland County, Thomas Stull, chairman of the Donegal Township Supervisors and first vice president of the Westmoreland County Supervisors Association, and Rich Ward, manager/zoning officer for Robinson Township in Washington County.

Following the panel discussion, there also will be time for a question and answer session.

There is a \$25 registration fee to participate in the program and pre-registrations are being requested by December 3. To register, visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/ccqmqg> or call 1-877-489-1398.

Registration the evening of the program will run from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., with the actual workshop running from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. For directions to the workshop location at Penn State, people can call 814-223-9028. For directions to the Penn College site, people should call 570-327-4775.



