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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1950 Session  
of  
2011

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**Report of the Committee of Conference**

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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

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

JOSEPH B. SCARNATI

MARY JO WHITE

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(Committee on the part of the Senate.)

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AN ACT

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

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

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

26 PART I

27 (RESERVED)

28 PART II

29 OVERSIGHT AND DEVELOPMENT

30 Chapter

31 23. Unconventional Gas Well Fee

32 25. Oil and Gas Lease Fund

33 27. Natural Gas Energy Development Program

34 CHAPTER 23

35 UNCONVENTIONAL GAS WELL FEE

36 Sec.

37 2301. Definitions.

38 2302. Unconventional gas well fee.

39 2303. Administration.

- 1 2304. Well information.  
2 2305. Duties of department.  
3 2306. (Reserved).  
4 2307. Commission.  
5 2308. Enforcement.  
6 2309. Enforcement orders.  
7 2310. Administrative penalties.  
8 2311. (Reserved).  
9 2312. Recordkeeping.  
10 2313. Examinations.  
11 2314. Distribution of fee.  
12 2315. Statewide initiatives.  
13 2316. Small business participation.  
14 2317. Applicability.  
15 2318. Expiration.  
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

1 unconventional gas well is spud.

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

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

7 (ii) If the average annual price of natural gas is  
8 greater than \$2.25 and less than \$3.00, the fee shall be  
9 \$15,000 for the third through ninth calendar years  
10 following the year in which the unconventional gas well  
11 is spud.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (b.1) Nonproducing unconventional gas wells.--If a spud  
29 unconventional gas well begins paying the fee imposed under this  
30 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

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

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

12 § 2314. Distribution of fee.

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

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

19 (c) Conservation districts.--

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

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

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

27 (4) Beginning July 1, 2014, each July 1 thereafter, the  
28 amount distributed under paragraph (3) shall be increased by  
29 any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All  
30 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

1 coordination related to natural gas production from  
2 unconventional gas wells.

3 (5) \$750,000 to the Office of State Fire Commissioner  
4 for the development, delivery and sustainment of training and  
5 grant programs for first responders and the acquisition of  
6 specialized equipment for response to emergencies relating to  
7 natural gas production from unconventional gas wells.

8 (6) \$1,000,000 to the Department of Transportation for  
9 rail freight assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (d) Distribution.--Except as provided in section 2302(a.3)  
28 and (a.4) (relating to unconventional gas well fee), following  
29 fee distribution under subsections (c), (c.1) and (c.2), from  
30 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,

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

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

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

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

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

27 (g) Use of funds.--A county or municipality receiving funds  
28 under subsection (d) shall use the funds received only for the  
29 following purposes associated with natural gas production from  
30 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,

1 40% of the remaining revenue in the fund shall be deposited into  
2 the Marcellus Legacy Fund and appropriated to the commission and  
3 distributed within three months after the date the fee is due as  
4 follows:

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

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

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

12 (iii) Complying with the act of January 24, 1966  
13 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537), known as the Pennsylvania Sewage  
14 Facilities Act.

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

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

20 (vi) Watershed programs and related projects.

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

24 (2) Ten percent to the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

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



1 follows:

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

4 (A) Divide:

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

6 (II) the total population of the

7 Commonwealth;

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

10 (C) Multiply:

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

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

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

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

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

25 (4) Twenty-five percent for water and sewer projects.  
26 Fifty percent of the amount distributed under this paragraph  
27 shall be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure  
28 Investment Authority to be used in accordance with the act of  
29 March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16), known as the Pennsylvania  
30 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

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

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

11 § 2317. Applicability.

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

16 § 2318. Expiration.

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

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

23 CHAPTER 25

24 OIL AND GAS LEASE FUND

25 Sec.

26 2501. Definitions.

27 2502. (Reserved).

28 2503. (Reserved).

29 2504. Appropriation of money.

30 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

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

1 chapter may not exceed the sum of:

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

3 (B) any unused portion available under paragraph

4 (1).

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

8 (iii) If the total amount allocated to either the  
9 group of applications exclusive of local transportation  
10 organizations or the group of local transportation  
11 organization applicants is not approved in fiscal year  
12 2013-2014, the unused portion shall be made available  
13 under paragraph (3).

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

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

17 (ii) any unused portion available under paragraph

18 (2).

19 § 2703. Program.

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

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

29 (1) A plan to convert five or more fleet vehicles into  
30 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.

1 This chapter shall expire December 31, 2016.

2 PART III

3 UTILIZATION

4 Chapter

5 31. (Reserved)

6 32. Development

7 33. Local Ordinances Relating to Oil and Gas Operation

8 35. Responsibility for Fee

9 CHAPTER 31

10 (RESERVED)

11 CHAPTER 32

12 DEVELOPMENT

13 Subchapter

14 A. Preliminary Provisions

15 B. General Requirements

16 C. Underground Gas Storage

17 D. Eminent Domain

18 E. Enforcement and Remedies

19 F. Miscellaneous Provisions

20 SUBCHAPTER A

21 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

22 Sec.

23 3201. Scope of chapter.

24 3202. Declaration of purpose.

25 3203. Definitions.

26 § 3201. Scope of chapter.

27 This chapter relates to oil and gas.

28 § 3202. Declaration of purpose.

29 The purposes of this chapter are to:

30 (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

1 this chapter only, the term does not include:

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

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

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

12 (2) Stimulation of a well.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (1) Hydraulic cement properly mixed with water only.

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

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

27 "Chemical Disclosure Registry." The chemical registry  
28 website developed by the Ground Water Protection Council and the  
29 Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission or their successor  
30 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,



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

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

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

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

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

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

21 "Operating coal mine." Any of the following:

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

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

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

30 "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

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

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

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

21 § 3213. Well registration and identification.

22 (a) General rule.--On or before July 5, 1996, each person  
23 who owned or operated a well in existence prior to April 18,  
24 1985, which has not been registered with the department and for  
25 which no drilling permit has been issued by the department,  
26 shall register the well with the department. A well owner or  
27 operator who registers under this subsection and a well owner or  
28 operator who has previously registered a well under this chapter  
29 shall, on or before July 5, 1996, identify any abandoned well on  
30 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

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

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

7 (g) Extension.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (D) other measures to be employed to minimize  
29 accelerated erosion and sedimentation in accordance  
30 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



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

12 (b.1) (Reserved).

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

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

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

27 (b.5) Facility operation qualifications.--The department  
28 shall ensure that a facility which seeks a National Pollutant  
29 Discharge Elimination System permit for the purposes of treating  
30 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

1 prealteration survey;

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

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

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

10 (v) the pollution occurred as the result of a cause  
11 other than the drilling or alteration activity; or  
12 (2) in the case of an unconventional well:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 department.

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

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

16 § 3218.1. Notification to public drinking water systems.

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

23 § 3218.2. Containment for unconventional wells.

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

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

30 (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

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

22 (b) Objections.--If an objection is filed by the well  
23 operator or raised by the department, the department shall order  
24 that a conference be held under section 3251 within ten days of  
25 the filing of objections. At the conference, the coal operator  
26 and the person who has objected shall attempt to agree on a  
27 proposed plan, showing the pillar to be left around each well,  
28 which will satisfy the objections and receive department  
29 approval. If an agreement is reached, the department shall grant  
30 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

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

14 § 3227. Air contaminant emissions.

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

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

26 (c) Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.--A  
27 statement under 25 Pa. Code Ch. 135 (relating to reporting of  
28 sources) for nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds  
29 shall be submitted to the department according to the schedule  
30 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (ii) Operate and maintain the reservoir and its  
20 facilities as prescribed by departmental regulations and  
21 at a pressure which will prevent gas from escaping, but  
22 the pressure shall not exceed the highest rock pressure  
23 found to have existed during the production history of  
24 the reservoir or another high pressure limit approved by  
25 the department after holding a conference under section  
26 3251 based on geological and production knowledge of the  
27 reservoir, its character, permeability distribution and  
28 operating experience.

29 (2) The duty under paragraph (1) shall not be construed  
30 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

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

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

24 (d) Notification.--If, in complying with subsection (a), a  
25 storage operator, after filing the statement provided for in  
26 subsection (b), plugs or reconditions a well, the storage  
27 operator shall notify the department and the coal operator  
28 affected, in writing, setting forth facts indicating the manner  
29 in which the plugging or reconditioning was done. Upon receipt  
30 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           (l) 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

1 withdraw the gas from it until the violation is remedied, in  
2 which case the storage operator, limited by due diligence  
3 insofar as existing facilities utilized to remove gas from the  
4 reservoir will permit, shall:

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

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

10 (o) Prevention of escape of gas.--In addition to initial  
11 compliance with other provisions of this chapter and lawful  
12 orders issued under this chapter, it shall be the duty, at all  
13 times, of a person owning or operating a storage reservoir  
14 subject to this chapter to keep all wells drilled into or  
15 through the storage stratum in a condition, and operate the  
16 wells in a manner, which is designed to prevent the escape of  
17 gas out of the storage reservoir and its facilities, and to  
18 operate and maintain the storage reservoir and its facilities in  
19 the manner prescribed by regulation of the department and at a  
20 pressure that will prevent gas from escaping from the reservoir  
21 or its facilities. This duty shall not be construed to include  
22 inability to prevent the escape of gas when escape results from  
23 an act of God or a person not under the control of the storage  
24 operator, except that this exception does not apply to a well  
25 which the storage operator has failed to locate and make known  
26 to the department. If an escape of gas results from an act of  
27 God or a person not under the control of the storage operator,  
28 the storage operator shall be under the duty to take any action  
29 reasonably necessary to prevent further escape of gas out of the  
30 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

1 data.

2 § 3237. Exemptions and prohibitions.

3 (a) Inapplicability of chapter to certain coal mines.--This  
4 chapter shall not apply to the following types of coal mines:

5 (1) Strip mines and auger mines operating from the  
6 surface.

7 (2) Mines to which the former act of June 9, 1911  
8 (P.L.756, No.319), entitled "An act to provide for the health  
9 and safety of persons employed in and about the bituminous  
10 coal-mines of Pennsylvania, and for the protection and  
11 preservation of property connected therewith," did not apply  
12 in accordance with section 3 of that act.

13 (3) Mines to which the former act of June 2, 1891  
14 (P.L.176, No.177), entitled "An act to provide for the health  
15 and safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite  
16 coal mines of Pennsylvania and for the protection and  
17 preservation of property connected therewith," did not apply  
18 in accordance with section 32 of that act.

19 (b) Workable coal seams.--Injection of gas for storage  
20 purposes in a workable coal seam, whether or not it is being or  
21 has been mined, is prohibited.

22 (b.1) Original extraction.--Nothing in this chapter  
23 prohibits original extraction of natural gas, crude oil or coal.

24 (c) Certain rock formations.--Nothing in this chapter  
25 applies to storage of gas or liquids in storage reservoirs  
26 excavated in rock formations specifically for storage purposes.

27 SUBCHAPTER D

28 EMINENT DOMAIN

29 Sec.

30 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

1 county where the land in question is situated may compel  
2 compliance by injunction or grant other appropriate relief in an  
3 action brought by the person storing gas in the storage stratum.

4 (d) Prerequisites to appropriation.--Before appropriating  
5 under this chapter, a person shall attempt to agree with owners  
6 of interests in the real property involved as to damages payable  
7 for rights and interests to be appropriated, if the owners can  
8 be found and are sui juris. If the parties fail to agree, the  
9 person shall tender a surety bond to the owners to secure them  
10 in the payment of damages. If the owners refuse to accept the  
11 bond, cannot be found or are not sui juris, and after reasonable  
12 notice to the owners by advertisement or otherwise, the bond  
13 shall be presented for approval to the court of common pleas of  
14 the county in which the tract of land is situated. Upon the  
15 approval of the bond by the court, the right of the person to  
16 appropriate in accordance with the provisions of this chapter  
17 shall be complete.

18 (e) Appointment of viewers.--Upon petition of a property  
19 owner or a person appropriating under this chapter, the court  
20 shall:

21 (1) appoint three disinterested freeholders of the  
22 county to serve as viewers to assess damages to be paid to  
23 the property owner for the rights appropriated;

24 (2) fix a time for the parties to meet;

25 (3) provide notice to the parties; and

26 (4) after the viewers have filed their report, fix  
27 reasonable compensation for the service of the viewers.

28 (f) Appeal.--Within 20 days after the filing of a report by  
29 viewers appointed under subsection (e), a party may appeal and  
30 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 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

1 facility employed for the disposal, processing or storage of  
2 residual wastes generated by the drilling of an oil or gas well  
3 or from the production of wells which is located on the well  
4 site, shall be considered to have been satisfied if the owner or  
5 operator of the well meets the following conditions:

6 (1) the well is permitted under the requirements of  
7 section 3211 (relating to well permits) or registered under  
8 section 3213 (relating to well registration and  
9 identification);

10 (2) the owner or operator has satisfied the financial  
11 security requirements of section 3225 (relating to bonding)  
12 by obtaining a surety or collateral bond for the well and  
13 well site; and

14 (3) the owner or operator maintains compliance with this  
15 chapter and applicable regulations of the Environmental  
16 Quality Board.

17 (b) Noncoal surface mining.--Obligations under the act of  
18 December 19, 1984 (P.L.1093, No.219), known as the Noncoal  
19 Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, or a  
20 regulation promulgated under the Noncoal Surface Mining  
21 Conservation and Reclamation Act, for any borrow area where  
22 minerals are extracted solely for the purpose of oil and gas  
23 well development, including access road construction, shall be  
24 considered to have been satisfied if the owner or operator of  
25 the well meets the conditions imposed under subsection (a)(1)  
26 and (2) and maintains compliance with this chapter and  
27 applicable regulations of the Environmental Quality Board.

28 (c) Solid Waste Management Act.--This section does not  
29 diminish or otherwise affect duties or obligations of an owner  
30 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

1 regulation, to the exclusion of all local ordinances. The  
2 Commonwealth by this section, preempts and supersedes the local  
3 regulation of oil and gas operations regulated by the  
4 environmental acts, as provided in this chapter.

5 § 3304. Uniformity of local ordinances.

6 (a) General rule.--In addition to the restrictions contained  
7 in sections 3302 (relating to oil and gas operations regulated  
8 pursuant to Chapter 32) and 3303 (relating to oil and gas  
9 operations regulated by environmental acts), all local  
10 ordinances regulating oil and gas operations shall allow for the  
11 reasonable development of oil and gas resources.

12 (b) Reasonable development of oil and gas resources.--In  
13 order to allow the for the reasonable development of oil and gas  
14 resources, a local ordinance:

15 (1) Shall allow well and pipeline location assessment  
16 operations, including seismic operations and related  
17 activities conducted in accordance with all applicable  
18 Federal and State laws and regulations relating to the  
19 storage and use of explosives throughout every local  
20 government.

21 (2) May not impose conditions, requirements or  
22 limitations on the construction of oil and gas operations  
23 that are more stringent than conditions, requirements or  
24 limitations imposed on construction activities for other  
25 industrial uses within the geographic boundaries of the local  
26 government.

27 (3) May not impose conditions, requirements or  
28 limitations on the heights of structures, screening and  
29 fencing, lighting or noise relating to permanent oil and gas  
30 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 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.