

Work Session Summary

April 29, 2011

Attendance: Edward Coar (Chairman), Commissioner Brian Smith, Chris Barrett, Bob Muller, Steve Price, Dave Messersmith, Jennifer Porter, Mary Beth Wood

Websites – Chairman Edward Coar indicated that he is experimenting with a program that will increase efficiency by allowing certain County departments and the Task Force website to be updated more easily. This will allow for current natural gas information to be posted on certain County department websites and the main Task Force website as it becomes available. The main focus at this point is to update the County Emergency Management Agency webpage.

Future Public Meeting – A discussion took place in regard to a potential topic for the next Task Force public meeting. It was suggested that the next public meeting would be focused on Public Safety. Following that program on Public Safety, it was suggested by Outreach Chairman Dave Messersmith that a ‘Local Economic Impacts’ program could be presented. This program could feature Timothy Kelsey Ph.D., a professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Penn State University. Mr. Messersmith will explore the possibility of hosting a program of this type in the future and check with Mr. Kelsey in regard to his availability.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Draft Regulations – The written comment period for the proposed draft natural gas drilling regulations ended on April 15, 2011. It was reported previously that Carol Collier, Executive Director of the DRBC, indicated that September of this year is likely the earliest DRBC Commissioners would vote on the proposed regulations.

Geologic Formations – Mr. Coar presented information on geologic formations and the potential economic limits of the Marcellus Shale. This information was originally presented in a Penn State Extension webinar titled “Plumbing the Depths in Pa: A Primer on Marcellus Shale Geology and Technology”. The powerpoint slides or the webinar itself, which originally took place on December 10, 2010, can be found at <http://extension.psu.edu/naturalgas/webinars/recorded>. Also discussed was information presented by Terry Engelder of Penn State University recently, which focused on the geographic extent of the potential thermal maturity of the Marcellus Shale. Information from the Ohio Geological Survey was also presented. This information, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#), focused on the Utica formation and its potential extent and maturity in Pennsylvania.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Workforce – Jennifer Porter reported that the sub-committee met on April 15th and was very well attended. Loren Locher, from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., was a guest speaker for the meeting. He discussed the project that has recently commenced, in addition to the others that are proposed in the future, to upgrade the existing pipeline system and the associated workforce implications. In a partnered study with Rutgers University it was determined that the employment impact for Pennsylvania was 6,000 jobs. In most cases, the jobs are temporary and the term is approximately one year. The next sub-committee meeting will take place on June 17th and the guest speaker for that meeting will be Henkels and McCoy.

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Public Safety – Steve Price thanked Edward Coar and Commissioner Brian Smith for participating in the viewing of a webinar presentation on public safety. Mr. Price reported that the EMA has the Prevention, Preparedness and Contingency (PPC) Plans in hand from Chesapeake and Newfield Exploration. These plans illustrate prevention and response details for any incidents at their respective sites. These plans ensure that the EMA and the companies are on the same page, so to speak, in regard to response to an incident. He stated that if any new companies were to move in to the County, these plans would also be needed from them. They are still working with Sergeant Sean Georgia of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the PSP recently hosted a truck haulers briefing program. Mr. Price is waiting to receive the incident report for the Chesapeake well blow out in Bradford County. He has a request in with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to receive the report when it is completed. Mr. Price is interested in reviewing the response details associated with the incident. He reported there have been no new 911-address requests so far this year. Mr. Price also noted that Newfield Exploration will now utilize a satellite phone to ensure communication ability from the drill sites. This satellite phone will be retained by the operator of a specific drill rig and the phone will remain with the operator/rig wherever it goes.

Planning – Edward Coar reported that he is continuing to monitor what municipalities across the State are doing in regard to the implementation of natural gas related ordinance regulations. As new material and model regulations become available, they will be posted on the Planning Sub-Committee website as a reference for local municipalities.

Outreach – Dave Messersmith indicated that he is working on presenters for the Public Safety public meeting. The Outreach Sub-Committee will continue to work on the development of the Public Safety program and the meeting will be promoted when a date is selected by the Task Force. Mr. Messersmith will also contact Tim Kelsey in regard to the scheduling of a potential future Task Force sponsored public presentation on ‘Local economic Impacts’.

Government – Commissioner Brian Smith reported that they have had dialogue with PA State Government representatives in regard to the drilling industry, including Governor Tom Corbett, Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley and Harry Forbes, who is the Governor’s Director of the Northeast PA Regional Office. Mr. Smith also reported to the Task Force that Damascus Township Supervisor Jeff Dexter has been very involved with gas drilling at the Township level and that he could provide valuable input from that perspective. The Task Force concurred and it was decided that Chairman Edward Coar would contact Mr. Dexter and extend an invitation to join the Task Force and serve on the Government Sub-Committee.

Environment – Bob Muller reported that the sub-committee spent time discussing the recent geologic information that has been presented in the media recently. Also discussed was the Common Waters publication that was distributed at the previous Task Force meeting. As summarized by Mr. Muller, it is a compilation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) of various agencies as they pertain to natural gas drilling. He suggested that many of the practices recommended in the report have already been implemented by the industry in many cases. He indicated that many of the industry standards are simply recommendations that are not mandated. The sub-committee is also planning a tour of drilling and other industry related sites in the future.

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Mr. Muller also discussed surface water testing in relation to the natural gas industry. There is currently water sampling occurring on three to four sites along the Equinunk Creek. The Wayne Conservation District and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network both participate in this effort. According to Mr. Muller, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has 50 monitoring stations. He reported that most of these are in Wayne County. It was also reported that the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has 45 monitoring stations for macroinvertebrates, as well as four stream monitors that record water quality parameters on a continual basis. The National Park Service also utilizes in stream monitors and they plan to install 12 additional sites in the Delaware headwaters, according to Mr. Muller. There have been training sessions for volunteers who actually conduct the water sampling. Mr. Muller indicated the Conservation District will investigate the costs of obtaining equipment to conduct a water sampling program. It was noted that some of the surface water testing that occurs in the Susquehanna River basin is financially supported in part by the natural gas industry. It was also mentioned that Wilkes University has been collecting private water well data, on a voluntary submission basis, in order to compile a database of this information.

Economic Development – Mary Beth Wood reported on the interest in a grant pre-application with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for money to establish an energy cluster in Wayne County. This would include the natural gas industry, along with other sources of energy such as wind and solar, to name a few. Ms. Wood indicated that Wayne County has the third highest number of installed solar panels in the State. Ms. Wood indicated that the County is ideally suited to attracting clean energy industry jobs. The ultimate goal is to create a more balanced employment profile that includes more technical and, therefore, higher paying jobs. Dave Messersmith questioned if manufacturing facilities that utilize natural gas in their processes would be interested in locating their facilities in Wayne County. Mary Beth Wood indicated that this is something that could be explored in the future through the use of a consultant who would investigate the types of potential businesses that would be interested in locating here in regard to the energy clustering proposal mentioned earlier.