

# Natural Gas Task Force: 'The Next Step'

## December, 2010

During November 2010, the Public Education Committee of the Potter County Natural Gas Task Force conducted a survey of attendees to determine what changes could be made to improve the operation and focus of the organization. We received approximately 45 responses; some shared specific suggestions or observations. Results will continue to be analyzed and will be used to determine the future direction of the Task Force. Thank you to all who participated. Here is a summary of the survey results.

### 1. Respondents were asked to rank on a scale of 1 (less important) to 5 (very important) these potential impacts of Marcellus Shale natural gas production:

*Results (average ranking) are as follows:*

Impact on water quality and environment-----	4.76
Impact on township roads, state forests, public infrastructure-----	4.55
Social impact on Potter County communities-----	3.91
Overall economic impact-----	3.73
Creating jobs for local residents-----	3.64

### 2. Respondents were also asked, with the same 1-5 scale, which topics they would the Task Force address in more detail.

*Results are as follows:*

Water quality and environmental issues-----	4.51
Impact on townships/infrastructure-----	4.15
Taxation and/or government regulatory issues-----	3.78
Emergency services/public safety-----	3.78
Public education seminars -----	3.46

### 3. Comments: Those who chose to add comments to their surveys said (in summary):

--*"Move beyond public education and become more engaged in analyzing issues/impacts and proposing public policy."*

--*"Use a microphone at Task Force meetings."*

--*"Assistance programs for residents who cannot afford to have water testing or protect themselves legally."*

--*"What about the economic consequences of using our tax dollars to supply water to residents whose water has been compromised by gas drilling, as well as tax dollars to litigate for the recovery of this money?"*

--*"Water/environmental issues are sufficiently covered by our state regulatory regime."*

--*"Is there funding to help offset the cost of public education relating to the gas industry?"*

--*“With a list of well permits issued and a GPS, several trained volunteers could have all well sites and addresses documented in one week. One has to get out in the field.*

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### **Survey – ‘The Next Step’**

--*“We need a centralized coordination of stream monitoring efforts by various groups in the county. With limited resources, how can we avoid duplication of these efforts (watershed groups, Trout Unlimited and schools have received grants)?”*

--*“Spraying dirt roads with wastewater from vertical wells for so-called dirt control. Isn’t that just cheap disposal?”*

### **Suggested Seminar/Task Force Meeting Topics:**

- Career Awareness
- Economic Impact
- Speakers from Greene/Washington Counties, Environmental Groups
- Water Dogs Training and Organization
- Control of Water Withdrawals for Allegheny River Basin Drilling/Fracking
- Basic Well Water Monitoring and Maintenance for Home Owners
- Mineral Rights/Leasing Rights for Property Owners
- Natural Gas Drilling 101: What Are They Doing Out There?
- Air Pollution Concerns
- Pa. Public Utility Commission Input on Pipelines, Eminent Domain/Related Issues
- Water Quality/Use/Monitoring and Treatment of Flowback Water
- Air Quality Monitoring/Testing and Baseline Data for Future Comparison
- Health Impacts from Drilling Activities (Air/Water Impacts)
- Changes in Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement (new governor, etc)
- Social Impacts of Increasing Gas Development
- Law Enforcement for Hazardous Materials/Heavy Equipment (Operation FracNET)