MARCELLUS SHALE INVESTMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

The development of the natural gas reserves from the Marcellus Shale formation in Pennsylvania provides the opportunity to grow Pennsylvania's economy, establish Pennsylvania as an energy exporter, improve America's portfolio of on-shore energy sources, and supply a bridge fuel that connects America to a future of renewable and sustainable energy sources.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA), which is comprised of over 127 member firms, offers these views regarding the development of the natural gas reserves.

ACEC/PA supports the responsible development of the Marcellus Shale formation with practices giving highest regard to public health and welfare and to the protection of our natural resources. Activities should balance economic development and environmental protection as outlined in the Commonwealth's Keystone Principles of Growth, Investment & Resource Conservation (October 2005).

Compliance with Environmental Regulations

The significant economic opportunities offered by Marcellus development is matched by the technical challenges of topography, climate, and limited infrastructure.

- ACEC/PA supports efforts to make gas exploration and production as environmentally safe as possible. This objective is supported by use of our technical knowledge to create highly compliant designs and address regulatory requirements through permitting processes.

- Development of the Marcellus Shale Play is highly regulated. The activities of natural gas exploration and production are governed by the state's oil and gas laws, state statutes, and policy by many state agencies.

- ACEC/PA supports the development and enforcement of environmental protection regulations, policies, ordinances, etc., to protect our natural resources. Policies should be supported by scientific evidence and should provide predictability and consistency across the Commonwealth. Compliance with the policies should be monitored and enforced with appropriate oversight and support from federal, state, and local agencies.

- ACEC/PA promotes the responsible use and protection of Pennsylvania drinking water supplies and water resources.

- ACEC/PA supports the development and enforcement of policies requiring reclamation and remediation of sites once gas wells and ancillary facilities are closed.

- ACEC/PA supports the development of appropriate funding mechanisms to address the impact of increased traffic volumes on state and local highway and bridge infrastructure. Such funds should be designated for projects that address bridge and traffic safety, congestion mitigation, and air and noise quality enhancements on impacted highway networks.
Create a Favorable Economy for Exploration

Responsible development of the Marcellus Shale formation will provide economic benefits to many and improve America's energy security. ACEC/PA believes that an open, evidence-based dialog on Marcellus development is appropriate. By sharing data and facts, participants gain a stronger understanding of how the value and role of excellence in engineering supports responsible development of the Marcellus Shale Play. Our member-firms serve on numerous statewide industry coalitions and work groups.

Pennsylvania First

ACEC/PA encourages gas exploration and production firms to maximize their economic impact by recruiting and retaining talent from the local work force and by utilizing the fine portfolio of Pennsylvania-based engineering firms and contractors.

ACEC/PA represents the consulting engineering companies in the Commonwealth.

We are 125 companies (member firms).

We represent over 10,000 employees and their families across the Commonwealth.