

Executive Order
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office

Subject:

Creation of Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission

Number:

2011-01



By Direction of: Tom Corbett, Governor

Date: March 8, 2011

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is fortunate to have one of the most abundant and diverse mineral resource fields in the world, including the Marcellus Shale natural gas reserves; and

WHEREAS, innovative technological advances in drilling, mining methods, equipment and water protection and treatment have made development of gas in the Marcellus Shale and other unconventional natural gas reserves possible; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Commonwealth taxpayers and communities received more than \$600 million in state and local tax revenue from Marcellus Shale; and

WHEREAS, Marcellus Shale offers tremendous economic and energy independence opportunities for the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the development of natural gas in a manner that protects the environment and safeguards the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the responsible development of natural gas resources will position the Commonwealth in the global marketplace as a world leader in energy supply and reduce our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Governor and the Commonwealth would benefit from the advice and counsel of an official advisory commission comprised of key stakeholders, including experts from the environmental community, natural gas industry, local government representatives and state government officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby establish the **Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission** (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") as hereinafter set forth.

- 1. Purpose.** The Commission shall develop a comprehensive, strategic proposal for the responsible and environmentally sound development of Marcellus Shale.
- 2. Responsibilities.** The Commission shall:
 - a. Complete a review of existing and proposed statutes, legislation, regulation and policies that regulate or affect Marcellus Shale natural gas development in the Commonwealth and provide analysis and recommendations regarding the following:
 - (1) Additional steps necessary to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's environment and natural resources and further mitigate impacts from development on the state's air, land, and water resources.
 - (2) Efforts necessary to promote the efficient, environmentally sound and cost-effective development of Marcellus Shale and other unconventional natural gas resources.
 - (3) Policies designed to encourage the end use of natural gas and natural gas byproducts.
 - (4) Workforce development needs and opportunities.
 - (5) Identifying, quantifying and recommending proposals to address the needs and impacts of natural gas development on local communities.
 - b. Provide interim reporting to the Governor, as determined as appropriate by the Commission chair, as well as a Final Report due on or before July 22, 2011.
 - c. Convene its first meeting no later than March 31, 2011, with subsequent meetings as determined by members of the Commission. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum; and
 - d. Adopt rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this order.
- 3. Composition of the Commission.** The Commission shall consist of the following members:
 - a. The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as Chair of the Commission; and
 - b. A minimum of 25 and a maximum of 35 appointees, representing, *inter alia*, the interests of environmental, conservation, industry, local and state government, who shall be chosen by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

- 4. Terms of Membership.** The members of the Commission shall serve from the date of their appointment by the Governor until July 22, 2011 or their removal from the Commission by the Governor, whichever occurs first. The Governor may fill vacancies that may occur and may remove any member from the Commission at his discretion.
- 5. Compensation.** Members of the Commission will receive no compensation for their service as Commission members. Non-government members will be reimbursed for travel and related expenses in accordance with the Commonwealth policy.
- 6. Staffing.** The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide administrative staff resources to support the Commission.
- 7. Cooperation by State Agencies.** All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance and support as needed by the Commission to carry out its functions effectively.
- 8. Reports.** In addition to the interim recommendations described above, the Commission shall submit to the Governor a final report on the Commission's activities on or before July 22, 2011.
- 9. Effective Date.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.
- 10. Termination Date.** This Executive Order shall remain in effect until July 22, 2011.