



# The PIOGA press

The monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association

June 2017 • Issue 86

## Proposed general permits for methane will be devastating

### Please take action!

It is extremely urgent that members of PIOGA reach out in the days ahead to contact their legislators to oppose two new general permits the state Department of Environmental Protection has proposed to target methane emissions. General Permit 5 (GP-5) is focused on midstream operations, such as compressor stations, and General Permit 5A (GP-5A) applies directly to unconventional operations and wells (for now, that is; it could spread to conventional operators). If these permits are promulgated unchanged, they have the potential of creating a “moratorium by permit” in Pennsylvania.

Provided below are a few key questions and answers about the GP-5 and GP-5A permits.

#### Are methane emissions increasing dramatically that would merit such a drastic measure?

Independent analysis shows that unconventional operators capture nearly 99.99 percent of the methane from wells. DEP’s data state that since 2009 methane emissions from oil and gas systems have decreased 0.65 percent, while natural gas production has increased by 977 percent. This includes not just production and transmission, but also the distribution systems to homes and businesses across Pennsylvania.

#### Are there currently no rules that control emissions?

Pennsylvania already has an effective program in place to control emissions. These include the existing GP-5 and DEP technical guidance requirements, which cover midstream and well site operations, provide predictable requirements for industry, and successfully minimize emissions. Facilities such as well sites that are below the permitting threshold must adhere to robust leak detection, repair and reporting requirements, and demonstrate their methane reductions to DEP.

#### What other industries or sectors will be subject to these new, more stringent regulations?

None. DEP’s proposal unfairly targets the unconventional natural gas production and transmission industry (for now) by

imposing permit conditions and standards not applicable to any other industry sector. We are not the only industry that produces emissions and are certainly not the highest emitters. Just one example: the Commonwealth has approximately one-half million cows and ranks fifth nationally in milk production.

The proposed GP-5 and GP-5A regulations represent a significant expansion of reporting, record keeping and monitoring standards required of no other industry and far exceed the need to verify compliance of those imposed in 2016 by the Obama administration’s Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Regulations require a cost-benefit analysis. When will this occur?

DEP is essentially developing complex regulations through permits that are not subject to the rulemaking process as defined by the Regulatory Review Act (RRA). Because DEP has evaded the RRA and the requirements therein, it has failed to outline the need for these new requirements and has refused to perform a cost-benefit analysis.

#### Can these permits be processed in a timely manner?

While this answer cannot be determined at this time, history tells us these permits would only further exacerbate the uncertainty and delays surrounding permitting. DEP routinely takes 8-10 months or longer to issue air permits, despite previous assurances that they would be reviewed and issued within 30 days. The existing GP-5 permit applications are approximately 145 pages in length when completed. Ohio, on the other hand, recently streamlined its general permit applications to just three pages.

#### My company doesn’t have emissions. Why should I care or take action?

The cost, unreasonable standards and permitting uncertainty contained in these new and revised permits further erodes the competitiveness of the Commonwealth to attract and retain capital investment and jobs while providing little, if any, tangible environmental benefit. Any service company or business supporting unconventional natural gas producers has the potential to experience negative consequences if these regulations go into effect. It is essential that members contact their legislators and urge them to intervene.

#### How to make your voice heard

DEP’s public comment period on the proposed revisions to GP-5 and the proposed new GP-5A ended on June 5, and PIOGA has submitted detailed comments on behalf of members. We are asking members to reach out to their legislators

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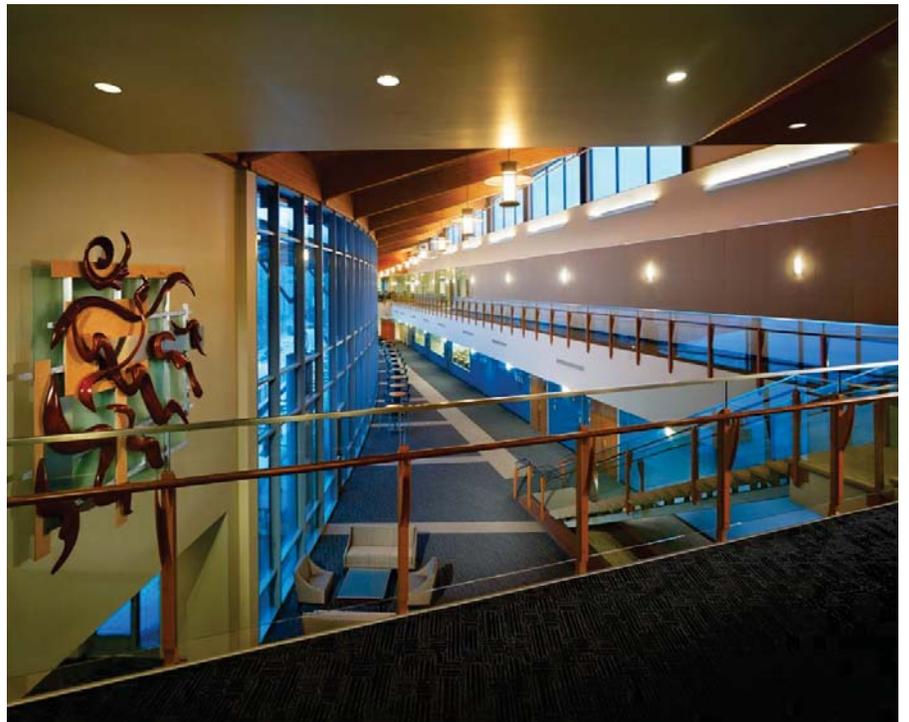
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## EPA issues stay for methane regulations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is following through on its commitment to stay portions of the 2016 New Source Performance Standards for the oil and gas industry while the agency works through the reconsideration process.

Using its Clean Air Act authority, the agency announced May 31 that it is issuing a 90-day stay of the fugitive emissions, pneumatic pumps and professional engineer certification requirements from the 2016 rule. Sources do not need to comply with these requirements while the stay is in effect.

The EPA's action is in line with President Trump's Energy Independence Executive Order, which directed the agency to review the oil and gas rules (*April PIOGA Press, page 4*).

In June 2016, EPA issued updated standards for new, reconstructed and modified oil and gas sources. Since issuing the final rules last year, the federal agency has received several petitions to reconsider aspects of the New Source Performance Standards. In an April 18, 2017, letter to petitioners, the agency announced its intent to reconsider certain aspects of the rule, including the fugitive emissions requirements (*May PIOGA Press, Page 8*). This action also grants reconsideration and stays for 90 days the pneumatic pump and professional engineer certification requirements in the rule.

As part of the reconsideration process, EPA expects to prepare a proposed rule, which will allow for public comment. Additional information on the stay and reconsideration are at [www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry](http://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry).

The rules were written to implement the Obama administra-

tion's goal of cutting methane emissions from oil and gas by 40-45 percent by 2025. The regulations built on 2012 New Source Performance Standards that focused entirely on emissions of volatile organic compounds from new and modified oil and gas wells, pulling in additional sources and regulating methane directly for the first time.

Environmental groups announced on June 5 that they had filed a suit challenging the EPA's stay of the regulations. ■

### DEP methane general permits: *Continued from page 1*

to describe the impact the permits—including the anticipated lengthy permitting times—will have on their own business or on companies that they do business with and to urge lawmakers to act to stop DEP from putting these changes into effect.

Here are steps you can take:

- Click on Members Only at the top of our homepage, [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org), and look for the alert about GP-5/GP-5A on the main page. At the end of that alert is a link to a sample Word document you can customize and send to your state representative and senator.

- To identify your state legislators and get their contact information, go to [www.bipac.net/lookup.asp?g=PIOGA](http://www.bipac.net/lookup.asp?g=PIOGA).

- Consider calling your representative's and senator's office too. Reaching out this way can make a bigger impression than a letter. The contact information above will include capitol and district office phone numbers.

- Learn what would be required. DEP's proposals are at [www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-13330](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-13330). ■

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## State and federal governments remain active in a changing regulatory landscape—air regulatory updates

*This article is an excerpt of The 2017 Babst Calland Report, a report which represents the collective legal perspective of Babst Calland's energy, environmental and pipeline safety attorneys addressing the most current business and regulatory issues facing the oil and natural gas industry. A full copy is available by writing [info@babstcalland.com](mailto:info@babstcalland.com).*

The second half of 2016 was marked by several significant federal air program developments as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) raced to implement President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan before the change in administration. The final New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for oil and natural gas production, processing, transmission and storage activities, which established first-time methane requirements, went into effect on August 2.<sup>1</sup> By then, lawsuits were already well underway to challenge the 2016 NSPS and EPA's authority to regulate methane emissions.<sup>2</sup>

In October, EPA finalized the "Control Techniques Guidelines" (CTG) directing state and local air agencies to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from existing oil and natural gas industry sources in areas with ozone problems (including all of Pennsylvania).<sup>3</sup> It is anticipated that Pennsylvania will adopt regulations to implement the CTG in the Commonwealth within the next few years.

In November, EPA issued a final Information Collection Request (ICR) to gather information for the agency to develop a federal rule to limit methane emissions from existing sources. The final ICR set in motion a flurry of activity as more than 15,000 owners and operators were tasked with submitting extensive information to EPA in a short timeframe. For many companies, the ICR presented an enormous challenge due to its broad scope, complex EPA reporting forms and significant compliance costs. Also in November, EPA finalized additional revisions to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems source category of its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule.<sup>4</sup>

The Trump administration acted quickly to reverse course on climate change initiatives and reduce regulatory burdens. By early March, the new administration had withdrawn the controversial ICR and announced that owners and operators were no longer required to respond.<sup>5</sup> On March 28, President Donald Trump signed an executive order entitled, "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," to promote domestic energy development and avoid regulatory burdens that "unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation."<sup>6</sup> This executive order revoked President Obama's 2013 Climate Action Plan and 2014 Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions and also directed EPA to review the 2016 NSPS. The same day, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that EPA was initiating review of the 2016 NSPS and "providing advanced notice of forthcoming rulemaking proceedings consistent with [President Trump's] policies."<sup>7</sup> More recently, EPA granted industry requests to reconsider certain requirements of the 2016 NSPS and announced a stay of the relevant provisions.<sup>8</sup>

In light of this trend, it is foreseeable that the Trump administration could rescind other Obama-era Clean Air Act initiatives such as the CTG later this year. In a similar vein, on June 1, President Trump announced that the United States will withdraw from the Paris Agreement adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2015.

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Babst Calland**

### **Pennsylvania: More stringent air permitting requirements proposed**

Despite the recent trend at the federal level, Pennsylvania continues to implement the methane reduction strategy launched by Governor Tom Wolf in early 2016. On February 4, the Department of Environmental Protection announced the beginning of a public comment period for an air permitting proposal that, if finalized, would result in significant changes to the status quo for oil and gas industry sources.<sup>9</sup> Among other things, the proposal would narrow the scope of a longstanding air permitting exemption known as "Exemption 38," such that it would not apply to new or modified unconventional well sites. Instead, unconventional operators would be required to obtain an air permit prior to constructing, modifying or operating a well site.

DEP proposed a new general permit known as GP-5A to authorize the construction and operation of unconventional natural gas well site operations and remote pigging stations. DEP also proposed significant changes to the terms and conditions of the existing general permit for natural gas compression and processing facilities, known as GP-5.<sup>10</sup> Together GP-5A and the revised GP-5 present myriad issues for comment and debate, such as the proposed requirement to control methane emissions from pigging operations by at least 98 percent. The public comment period regarding the proposal closed on June 5.

Apart from the pending air permitting proposal, it remains to be seen whether DEP will undertake a rulemaking to reduce methane or VOC emissions from oil and natural gas facilities. Governor Wolf's methane strategy announcement in 2016 anticipated that DEP would eventually develop such a regulation. ■

<sup>1</sup> See 81 Fed. Reg. 35824 (June 3, 2016), available at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-03/pdf/2016-11971.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-03/pdf/2016-11971.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *North Dakota v. EPA*, D.C. Cir., No. 16-1242 (filed July 15, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> See 81 Fed. Reg. 74798 (Oct. 27, 2016), available at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-27/pdf/2016-25923.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-10-27/pdf/2016-25923.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See 81 Fed. Reg. 86490 (Nov. 30, 2016), available at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-30/pdf/2016-27981.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-30/pdf/2016-27981.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See 82 Fed. Reg. 12817 (Mar. 7, 2017), available at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-07/pdf/2017-04458.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-07/pdf/2017-04458.pdf).

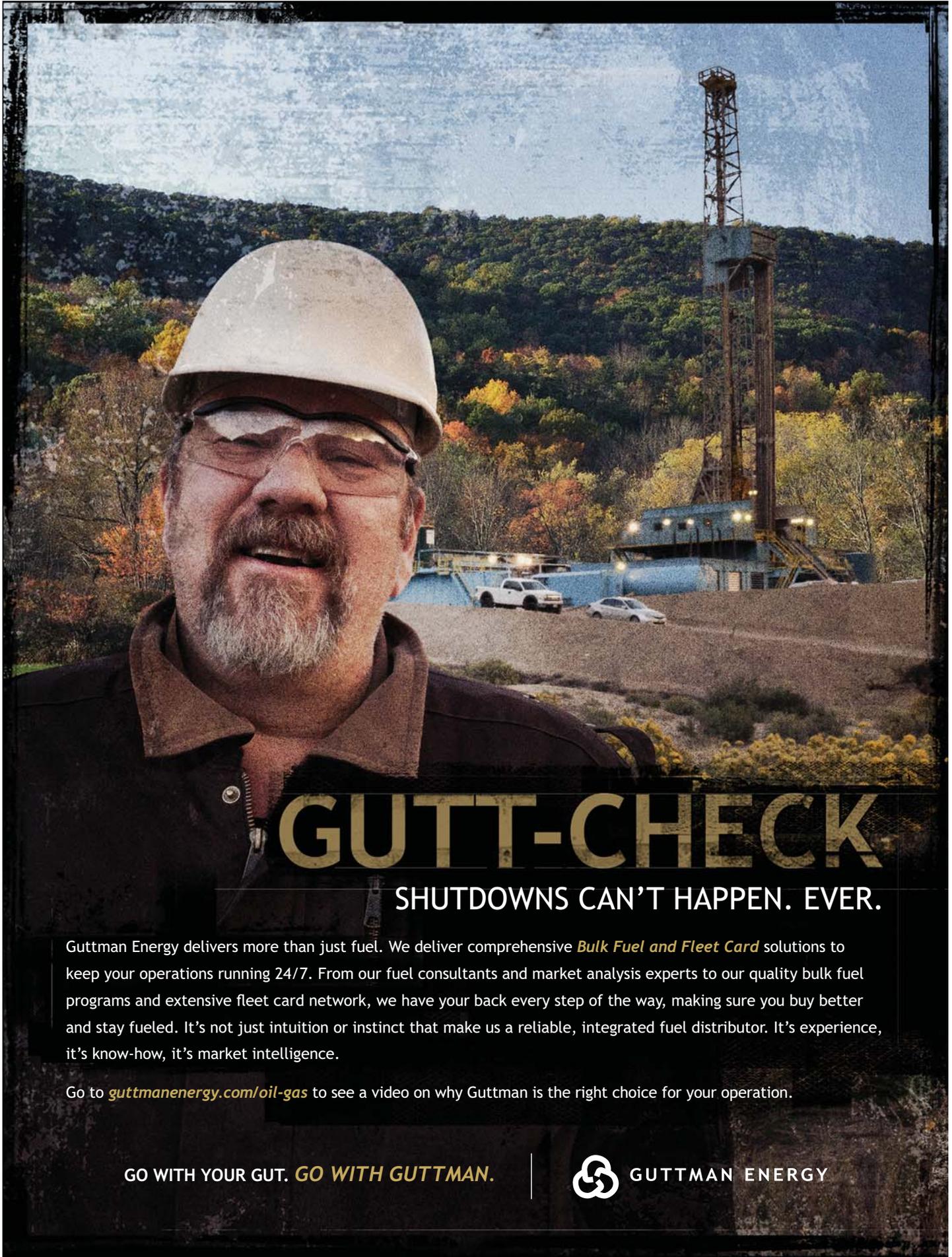
<sup>6</sup> Available at [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/28/presidential-executive-order-promoting-energy-independence-and-economy-1](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/28/presidential-executive-order-promoting-energy-independence-and-economy-1).

<sup>7</sup> See 82 Fed. Reg. 16331 (April 4, 2017), available at [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-04/pdf/2017-06658.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-04/pdf/2017-06658.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> See EPA News Release, "EPA to Reconsider Oil and Gas Rule" (April 19, 2017), available at [www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reconsider-oil-and-gas-rule](http://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reconsider-oil-and-gas-rule).

<sup>9</sup> See 47 Pa. Bull. 733 (Feb. 4, 2017), available at [www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol47/47-5/200.html](http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol47/47-5/200.html).

<sup>10</sup> A related article which appeared in the December 2016 issue of *The PIOGA Press* inadvertently stated that DEP issued GP-5 for the first time in 2006. DEP first issued GP-5 in 1997 and revised it in 2006.

A man with a goatee, wearing a white hard hat and safety glasses, is smiling. He is in the foreground, wearing a dark polo shirt. In the background, there is an oil rig (jackpot) on a hillside with trees showing autumn foliage. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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# Scenes from the Ted Cranmer Memorial Golf Outing and Picnic

Smiles and sunshine both were abundant on June 5 at Wanango Golf Club as PIOGA members gathered to honor long-time board member Ted Cranmer, who passed away late last year. Guests in attendance included Ted's wife, father and sister (below).



Dan Palmer (right) of title sponsor American Refining Group addresses the dinner crowd.



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## Wednesday, June 28

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12-2 p.m.	<b>The Power of Women in Energy Luncheon</b> Speaker: Coach Monique DeMonaco
1 p.m.	Product & Equipment Roundup Opens
2-3:30 p.m.	Lunch for Pig Roast Ticket Holders
3-4:30 p.m.	PIOGA-PAC Reception
6-8:30 p.m.	Pig Roast Dinner
9 p.m.	Fireworks by Little Big Shots



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## Thursday, June 29

### Operators Forum & Leadership Summit

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- **Public Engagement Strategies and Gaining Public Support to Overcome Opposition**  
John Davies, Davies Public Affairs
- **What if...America's Energy Renaissance Never Actually Happened?**  
Bob Garland, Silver Creek Services
- **Company Culture... Be Here for Life, Finding People's Why**  
Joe Kopko, HUB International
- **OIL Forum: Operating, Innovation and Logistics**  
Daniel Rice and Toby Rice, Rice Energy, Inc.  
TBA, Huntley & Huntley Energy Exploration, LLC  
Dan Doyle, Reliance Well Services
- **Lunchon Speaker: Craig Wolfley, NFL Veteran**  
Team Building and Pulling Toward a Unifying Goal
- **Panel Discussion: Economic Developments and Community Challenges Around the State**  
Jeff Kotula, Washington County Chamber of Commerce  
Vincent Matteo, Williamsport /Lycoming Chamber of Commerce  
Jack Manning, Beaver County Chamber of Commerce
- **Blueprint to Success**  
Jim Shorkey, Shorkey Auto Group and Results from Thinking

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## First Safety Committee PIOGATech focuses on confined space entry awareness

Working in the oil and gas industry, many employees will encounter workplaces that contain spaces that are considered “confined” and hinder the activities of employees who must enter, work in and exit them. On May 11, the first Safety Committee PIOGATech was held with over 15 participants attending the Confined Space Entry Awareness training.

During the three-hour training, participants learned about OSHA standards on the definition of a confined space; hazards of confined spaces; training for entrants, attendants and supervisors; permit-required confined spaces; emergency rescue; and personal protective equipment (PPE). In addition to the instruction, participants had an opportunity to do hands-on work at the confined space equipment stations with live demos on how to set up, use and calibrate the equipment that is typically used with

confined space entry. All participants earned continuing education credits for attending the training.

A special thank-you goes to Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., AMEC Foster Wheeler, The Reschini Group and Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School for putting on this important training.

### Next PIOGATech

The Environmental Committee will host the next installment of the PIOGA Technical Training Series on July 27, covering aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and secondary containment for ASTs, along with silica monitoring, safety and regulations. It will take place at the Chadwick Banquet Center in Wexford. Watch your email or check the PIOGA Events section at [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org) for complete details and registration. ■



Left: Jeff Celender from Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School discusses the proper set up of confined space equipment. Center: Rick Celender from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. instructs on proper PPE. Right: Emergency rescue demonstration.



We would like to introduce the newest member of our staff: Deana McMahan took on the position of Administrative Assistant-Committee Liaison May 22.

She recently moved to Lawrencesville after working in the movie theatre industry out of Greensburg for the past 20 years. She comes to us with many years of experience as an administrative assistant and former business owner of her own martial arts school.

Deana will work closely with Director of Administration Danielle Boston and will be responsible for assisting with all aspects of PIOGA's office administration, including member inquiries and services, committee liaison, and providing support to the PIOGA staff. She will be the new voice on the phone when you call in.

Deana grew up in Greensburg, has two children, Dillon (25) and Dakota (19), and resides with her boyfriend, Eric. Her hobbies include bicycling and horror movies.

Please help us welcome Deana to the PIOGA staff! ■

## Pennsylvania's conventional industry: \$1.4 billion economic impact

Though often overshadowed by shale gas, Pennsylvania's conventional oil and gas industry generates an estimated \$1.4 billion economic impact to the Commonwealth and supports some 5,600 jobs.

Those were among the findings in a report commissioned by the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Coalition (PGCC) and released last month during an event in Harrisburg intended to help lawmakers, regulators and the general public understand the differences between Pennsylvania's legacy oil and gas business and its unconventional counterpart. The report focused on 19 counties in northwest and southwest Pennsylvania where the conventional industry is most active.

The report notes that conventional oil and gas "is a crucial driver of local economic and employment impact in the small communities in which it occurs...by utilizing local vendors, employing residents and paying wages." Among the direct, induced and indirect impacts:

- The operations of conventional oil and gas wells generate \$1.4 billion in total annual economic impact.
- The activity of the conventional oil and gas industry supports an estimated 5,600 jobs with \$241 million in earnings.
- The conventional industry's operations support \$17 million in annual tax revenues.
- Permit fees from conventional oil and gas operators support more than half of the approximately \$20 million annual budget

of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Oil and Gas Management.

As one example, the report highlights the American Refining Group refinery in Bradford. Each year, the refinery generates an estimated \$93 million in economic impact in McKean County alone and supports 350 direct and 100 indirect and induced jobs.

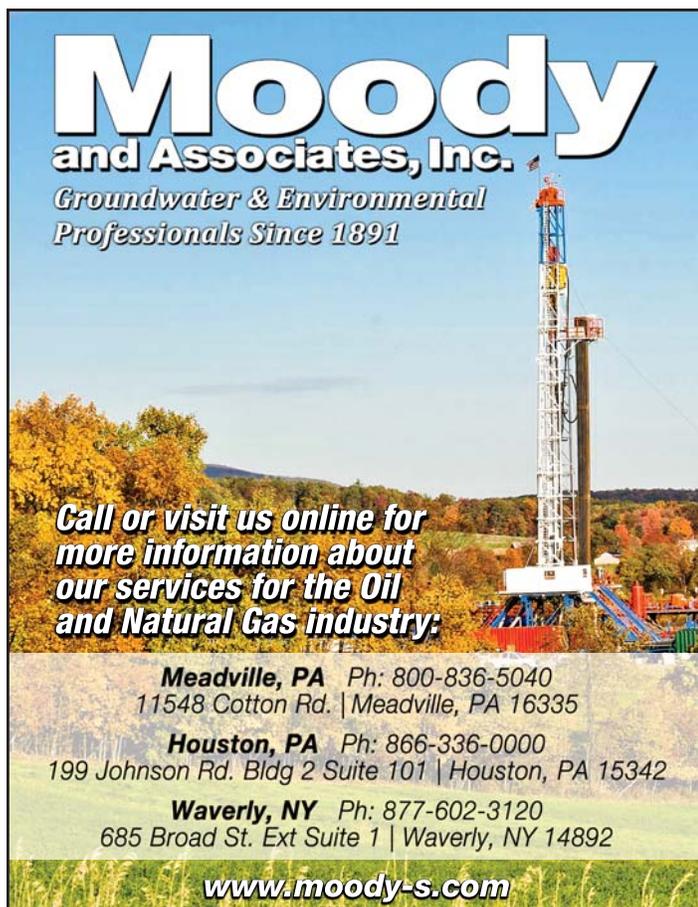
"This report speaks volumes about the economic impact of this industry and the tremendous number of jobs it supports," said state Representative Martin Causer (R-McKean). "To people in our area, especially those who make their living in the oil and gas fields, these numbers come as no surprise. But as we work at the state level to help ensure the future of this 150-year-old industry, these statistics will be a valuable tool in making our case." ■

## DEP eSubmissions update for conventional operations

Producers now have the option to submit a select number of forms and requests associated with conventional well operations using the Department of Environmental Protection's eSubmission application. The new submissions include:

- Well record
- Completion report
- Pre-drill survey sample results
- Request alternate waste management practice
- Well logs
- Well site restoration period extension request
- Well site restoration report

The user guide, which has step-by-step instructions on using the eSubmission application, has been updated and can be found by selecting Oil and Gas Electronic Submission Guides from [www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OilandGasPrograms/OilandGasMgmt/Pages](http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OilandGasPrograms/OilandGasMgmt/Pages). If you have questions, contact Lucas Swanger at [lswanger@pa.gov](mailto:lswanger@pa.gov) or 717-783-9522. ■



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## DEP goes electronic with annual oil & gas report

The Department of Environmental Protection's 2016 Oil and Gas Annual Report has been published for the first time in an interactive, entirely digital format.

Announcing the availability of the report, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell described Pennsylvania as "one of the most transparent states in making oil and gas data publicly accessible. Making the Annual Report completely digital is just the next step in our continued effort to share as much information as possible."

Built on the Esri platform, data are geolocated in GIS maps and real-time, drawing from DEP's daily electronic compliance tracking system updates. The report presents 2016 data on permit activity, inspections, operator compliance, and enforcements for conventional and unconventional wells.

Data linked to even more data is what the report is all about—to the extent that it can be cumbersome to navigate. You can peruse it all at [www.depgis.state.pa.us/oilgasannualreport/index.html](http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/oilgasannualreport/index.html), but here is a concise look at some of the more pertinent information from 2016:

- Natural gas production from unconventional wells reached an all-time high of 5.1 Tcf, while the number of these wells was the lowest since 2008 at 7,143. Gas production from 56,706 conventional wells totaled 107 Bcf, while 16,721 oil wells yielded 1.1 million barrels of crude.
- Unconventional well permitting continued a three-year slide from 3,182 in 2014 to 1,321 last year. Only 158 drilling permits

## New site puts maps of environmental information at public's fingertips

The Department of Environmental Protection has put a large amount of environmental data at the public's fingertips with a geographic information system (GIS) open data map site—[data-padep-1.opendata.arcgis.com](http://data-padep-1.opendata.arcgis.com).

Focused primarily on geographic information, the GIS open data site aggregates and simplifies DEP's public data on abandoned mine lands, air quality, coal mining, hazardous waste, industrial mining, land recycling, oil and gas, public water supply, radiation, streams and lakes, waste management, water pollution control, and water resources.

Visitors can browse these categories or drill down into the details—for example, searching for natural gas wells or impaired streams near a street address, zip code or town. They can view the data as a map, a table, or charts and download data into spreadsheets or embed it into their own applications or websites.

Most data are updated daily. Currently there are 300 data sets and DEP will be adding more. Users who'd like to suggest data for inclusion can email the DEP Geospatial Data Center at [ra-epgeospatialdatacenter@pa.gov](mailto:ra-epgeospatialdatacenter@pa.gov).

Because it's map-based, the GIS site doesn't replace all DEP data tools. For example, users can search for permitted oil and gas wells by location, but not simply by year. The site is accessible across all platforms and devices.

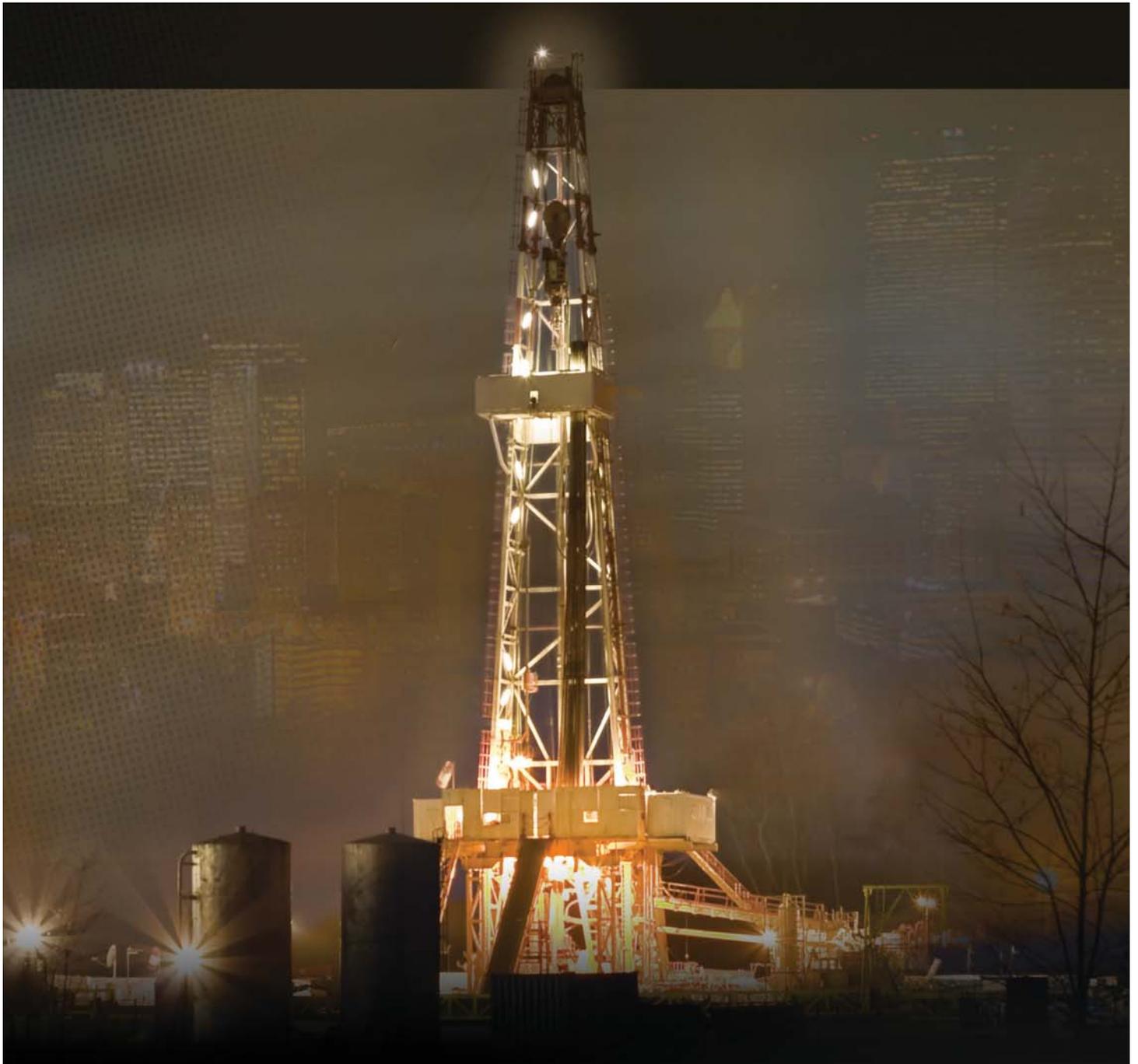
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for conventional wells were issued in 2016, the fourth year in a row they had declined.

- A total of 596 wells were drilled in 2016—504 unconventional and 92 conventional. DEP’s inventory of wells included 10,109 unconventional and 193,645 conventional.

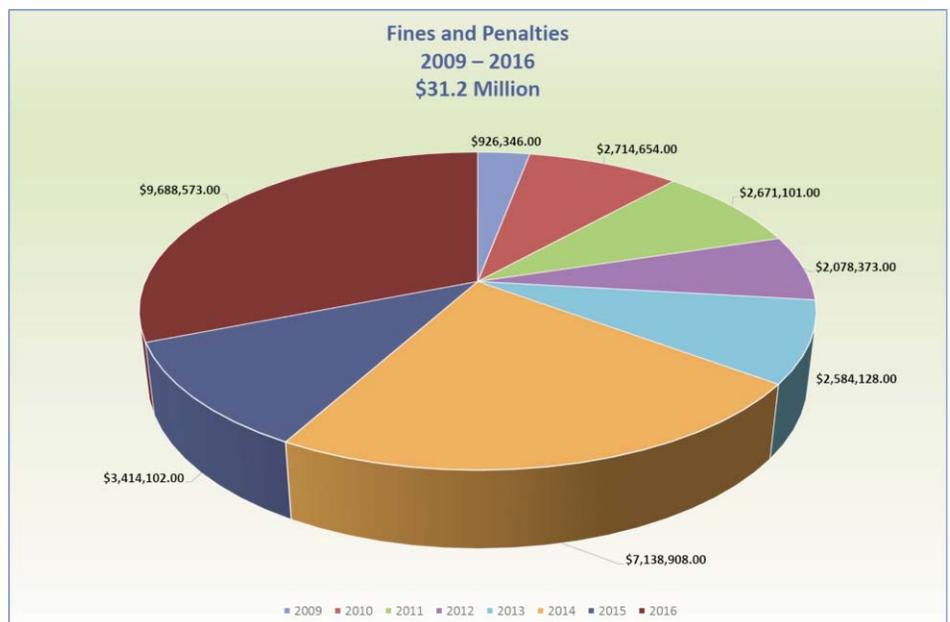
- DEP collected \$7.91 million in drilling permit fees and \$490,000 in orphaned/abandoned permit fees.

- The department conducted 35,556 compliance inspections—15,192 for unconventional operations, 15,989 conventional and 4,375 wellsite/administrative inspections—an increase of 2.8 percent from 2015, but more than twice the number of inspections that took place in 2010.

- DEP recorded 456 violations at unconventional wells, including 18 that were administrative and 438 that were environmental and safety related. Among the leading environmental/safety violations, 91 were for “failure to fill all pits used to contain produced fluids or industrial wastes and remove unnecessary drilling equipment not needed for production within 9 months from completion of drilling a well,” 39 were for “failure to report to DEP within 24 hours a defect in a well that has defective, insufficient or improperly cemented well casing, and 37 were for “conducting a regulated activity without, or contrary to, a valid permit issued under the Clean Streams Law.”

- Violations for conventional wells jumped by more than 800 from 2015 to 2016. Of the 1,834 violations for conventional wells, 960 were administrative and 874 were environmental health and safety related. The top administrative violations were for failure to post proper signage (324), failure to submit an annual production report (274) and failure to notify DEP of the sale or transfer of well ownership within 30 days (166). Among the environmental/safety violations, just over half were for failure to plug a well after abandonment, 54 were related to spills and the remainder were spread over 50 other violation categories.

- DEP collected \$9.69 million penalties last year, with \$8.4 million of that coming from just nine cases. \$4.07 million in penalties was deposited into DEP’s well-plugging fund. Since 2009, the department has levied \$31.2 million in fines and penalties. ■





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## PIOGA's 'Member Only' committee portal pages: Are you using this resource?

Are you a member of the Environmental, Pipeline and Gas Market Development, Legislative or Safety Committee? Did you know that your committee has its own dedicated committee portal page that contains many resources to help you stay informed of the work of the committee and upcoming meetings?

### Highlights of the committee portal pages

- **Committee chair(s) information.** See who the committee chairs are and obtain direct contact information for them if you want to reach out and inform them of an issue you would like covered by the committee or inform them of the volunteer services you could provide to the committee.
- **Group directory.** On the committee portal page on the left side, you can now access a group directory and see who is on the committee and also get contact information for members.
- **Calendar.** A listing of upcoming monthly meetings and any other committee events.
- **Photo gallery.** Allows for photo sharing of relevant pictures for the committee.
- **Document library.** The committee pages now have the ability for file sharing, allowing members to access all committee meeting materials (even past meetings) and other resource materials. This area also allows subcommittee leaders to post working documents and other informative resources for their subcommittee work.
- **Group feed.** Have a question for the committee? Put it out on the group feed on the on the committee's main portal page. Those members who subscribe to the group feed will receive your comment or question and can reply. Also, in this area you can see a list of the new PIOGA members who joined the committee.
- **New committee members alerts.** Want to know who has joined the committee? In your preferences area (in the manage profile area) you can select *Email me when someone joins a group of which I am a member* and the system will send you an email with their name and contact information. If you are currently receiving those alerts and do not want to receive them any longer, simply uncheck this preference.

### Want to join a committee?

Simply click on **Request a membership** on the committee webpage and we will add you to the committee you want to join. Once you join, you will have access to the portal pages and all the resources mentioned above, as well as receive notices of upcoming meetings.

We hope you're taking advantage of all the great resources that are on our committee portal pages. Please let us know if you have any ideas on how we can enhance it further by emailing Danielle Boston at [danielle@pioga.org](mailto:danielle@pioga.org). ■

## New PIOGA members — welcome!

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## Thompson reintroduces Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act

### Reinforces federal rulings ensuring access and production in the Allegheny National Forest

U.S. Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson recently reintroduced a bill that will ensure the rights of private mineral owners in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF).

The Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017 seeks to reinforce in federal law the consistent rulings of federal courts related to privately held mineral rights in the ANF. Since 2009, federal courts have determined in cases spearheaded by PIOGA and its predecessor association that the U.S. Forest Service lacks the legal authority to further regulate access to private mineral rights in the ANF and therefore is prohibited from creating new rules. This bill will reflect those findings in federal law.

In 2016, the legislation was passed by the House Natural Resources Committee with no objection and by the full House with strong bipartisan support. Upon passage by the House, the legislation stalled in the U.S. Senate before the conclusion of the 114th Congress.

“This legislation reaffirms nearly a century of cooperation between the owners of private mineral rights in northwestern Pennsylvania and the federal government,” said Thompson, a member of the Natural Resources Committee. “Despite repeated attempts by extreme environmental groups to shut down energy production in the Allegheny National Forest, the legislation will

provide certainty and protect the jobs and communities that rely on the forest’s resources.”

The Allegheny National Forest covers more than 500,000 acres in northwestern Pennsylvania and is located in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties. More than 90 percent of the subsurface it privately owned and it is the state’s most active region for conventional oil and gas production. ■

## PUC’s Powelson tapped for FERC

President Trump has nominated Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Robert Powelson to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Also nominated was congressional staff member Neil Chatterjee.

FERC has been hampered since early in the year by a lack of a quorum at a time when agency action is crucial to a number of important pipeline projects.

Powelson has served as a PUC commissioner since 2008 and as chairman since 2011. He also serves as president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Chatterjee is energy policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Over the years he has played an integral role in the passage of major energy, highway and farm legislation.

During a May 25 confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Powelson said if confirmed he would work to root out “snags” delaying approval of natural gas pipelines and also spoke favorably about exports of liquefied natural gas. ■

## McDonnell finally confirmed as DEP secretary

By a 50-0 vote, the Pennsylvania Senate on May 22 confirmed Patrick McDonnell’s nomination as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.

McDonnell had been serving as acting secretary since May 2016 following the resignation of John Quigley over an explicative-laced email the then-DEP chief sent to environmental groups criticizing them for not doing enough to support the department’s proposed Chapter 78/78A oil and gas regulations and greenhouse gas regulations. He was nominated as secretary by Governor Tom Wolf in September, but the Senate did not act on the recommendation before the session ended late last year. His nomination was reintroduced in January.

The long-time DEP official served as director of policy, overseeing the agency’s regulations and policy development processes, before being named acting secretary. In addition, he oversaw the State Energy Office and was charged with coordination of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues.

Before a stint away from the department, serving as executive policy manager for former Commissioner Pamela Witmer at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, McDonnell had been deputy secretary for administration, policy director and an assistant to the special deputy secretary. He began his career at DEP working in the State Energy Office.

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During his May 9 confirmation hearing before the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, McDonnell was quizzed by senators about slow permit processing, concerns about DEP's GP-5 and proposed GP-5A permits, pipeline construction, and departmental funding and staffing issues.

"Over my almost 20 years in state government, I've had a chance to see almost every aspect of our agency... Through it all, I've prided myself on being open to collaboration, being honest about problems and listening to all perspective to help my colleagues and me make meaningful decisions," McDonnell told the committee. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the confirmation to the full Senate. ■

## State seeks input on use of Volkswagen diesel settlement funds

The Wolf administration has released a draft plan, and is encouraging public input, for the use of \$118 million from the Volkswagen diesel settlement fund to pay for projects to reduce air pollution in Pennsylvania. Settlement funds would be used to pay for 10 types of vehicle upgrade and infrastructure projects, including converting older diesel vehicles and equipment to cleaner-burning natural gas.

Pennsylvania's allocation is part of a settlement of a federal lawsuit against Volkswagen after VW violated the Federal Clean Air Act by installing emissions testing defeat devices in vehicles

sold in the Commonwealth and elsewhere. Pennsylvania's allocation from the trust fund is based on the more than 23,000 illegal vehicles in the Commonwealth. Projects funded through the settlement will help mitigate the excess emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOX) from illegally equipped VW vehicles in Pennsylvania.

The settlement allows Pennsylvania to apply to receive approximately \$118 million over as many as 10 years from an Environmental Mitigation Trust to fund projects that will reduce emissions from certain types of diesel-powered vehicles and equipment. ■

## PIOGA Member News

### Police joins CP Industries

CP Industries, a Pennsylvania-based manufacturer of seamless high-pressure vessels for Industrial Gas, Offshore, Defense and Alternative-fuel storage applications welcomes a new sales member to its team. Jeff Polce is now Senior Product Manager for Industrial Gas.

He has an extensive product sales and marketing background with Highland Tank, where he had 21 years of manufacturing and distribution experience. Polce is a graduate of Clarion University. ■

## PIOGA Member Profiles

### Introduce your company

Introduce your company and tell other members what you offer to Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry. The guidelines for making a PIOGA Member Profile submission are:

- Include a brief history of your company. When and where was it founded, and by whom? Is the company new to the oil and gas industry in general or to Pennsylvania?
- Describe the products and services you offer specifically for the oil and gas industry. Do you have a product in particular that sets your company apart from the competition?
- If applicable, tell how the business been positively impacted by Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry. Have you expanded, added employees or opened new locations?
- Include a website address and/or phone number.
- Your submission may be a maximum of 400-450 words and should be provided as a Word document. Use minimal formatting—bold and italic fonts are OK, as are bulleted or numbered lists. Your submission is subject to editing for length, clarity and appropriateness.
- Include your company logo or a photo. Images must be high-resolution (300 dots/pixels per inch or higher) and in any common graphics format. Please include identifications for any people or products in a photo. Send image files separately, not embedded in your document.

Email material to Matt Benson at [matt@pioga.org](mailto:matt@pioga.org). This is a free service to our member companies and publishing dates are at the discretion of PIOGA. If you have questions, email Matt or call 814-778-2291.



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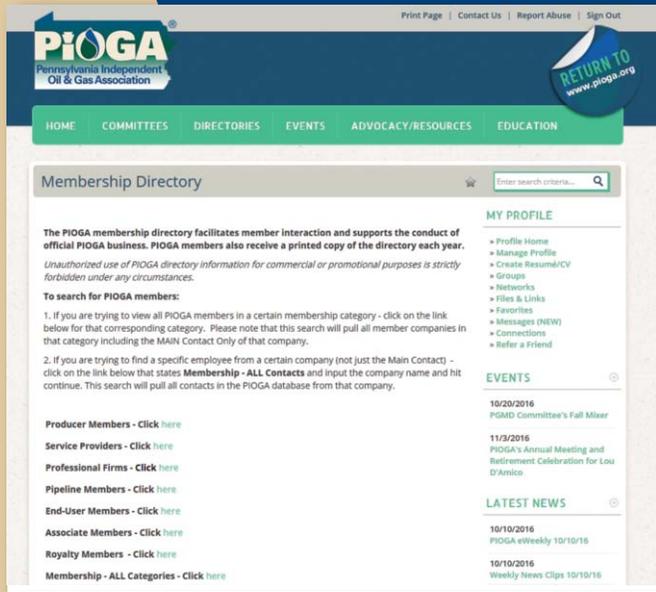
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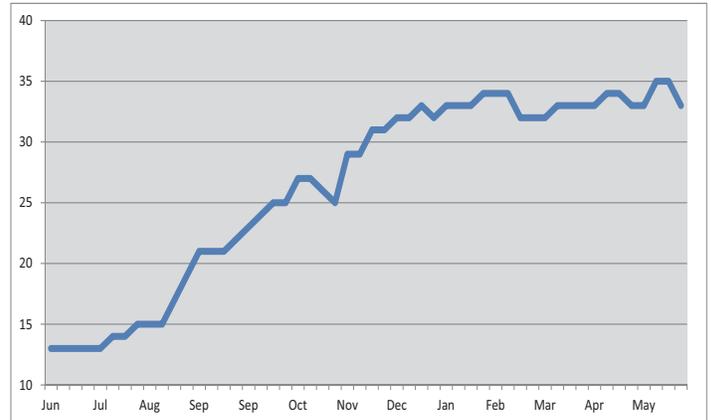
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## Oil & Gas Trends

### Pennsylvania Rig Count



### Sources

American Refining Group: [www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx](http://www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx)  
 Ergon Oil Purchasing: [www.ergon.com/prices.php](http://www.ergon.com/prices.php)  
 Gas futures: [quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX\\_NG](http://quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX_NG)  
 Baker Hughes rig count: [phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79687&p=irol-reports&other](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79687&p=irol-reports&other)  
 NYMEX strip chart: Emkey Energy LLC, [emkeyenergy.com](http://emkeyenergy.com)

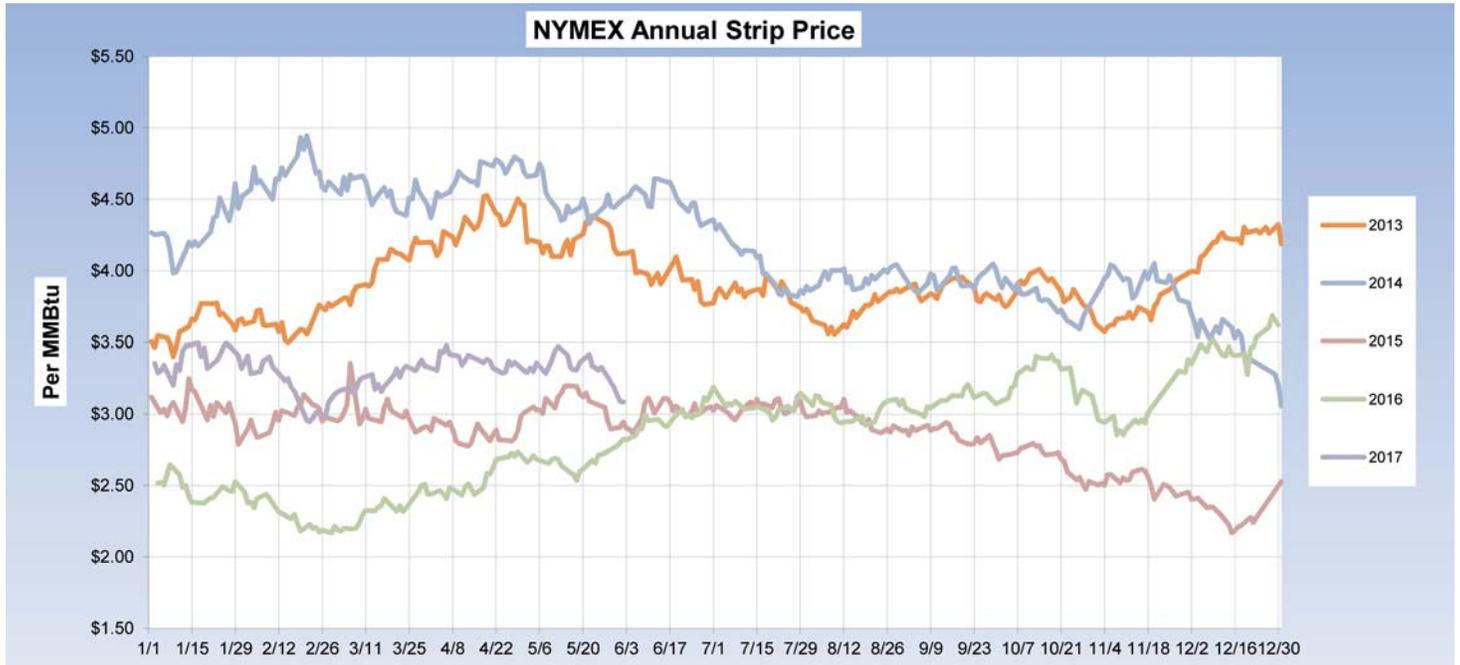
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### Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

Month	Price	Month	Price
July 2017	\$3.079	January 2018	3.384
August	3.114	February	3.335
September	3.100	March	3.300
October	3.120	April	2.881
November	3.190	May	2.820
December	3.318	June	2.875

*Prices as of June 6*



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# Spud Report: May



The data show below comes from the Department of Environmental Protection. A variety of interactive reports are

OPERATOR	WELLS	SPUD	API #	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY
Cameron Energy Co	2	5/8/17	123-48071	Warren	Sheffield Twp
		5/19/17	123-48072	Warren	Sheffield Twp
CNX Gas Co LLC	6	5/26/17	059-27189*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/26/17	059-27190*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/26/17	059-27384*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/26/17	059-27385*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/26/17	059-27386*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/26/17	059-27191*	Greene	Center Twp
EQT Production Co	11	5/17/17	059-27220*	Greene	Center Twp
		5/1/17	059-27312*	Greene	Jefferson Twp
		5/1/17	059-27313*	Greene	Jefferson Twp
		5/1/17	059-27315*	Greene	Jefferson Twp
		5/1/17	059-27314*	Greene	Jefferson Twp
		5/4/17	059-27316*	Greene	Jefferson Twp
		5/5/17	059-27260*	Greene	Morris Twp
		5/10/17	059-27258*	Greene	Morris Twp
		5/10/17	059-27263*	Greene	Morris Twp
		5/26/17	125-28243*	Washington	Amwell Twp
		5/26/17	125-28244*	Washington	Amwell Twp
PennEnergy Resources LLC	3	5/10/17	019-22579*	Butler	Jefferson Twp
		5/10/17	019-22307*	Butler	Jefferson Twp
		5/10/17	019-22580*	Butler	Jefferson Twp
Range Resources Appalachia	15	5/10/17	125-28198*	Washington	Cross Creek Twp
		5/11/17	125-28230*	Washington	Cross Creek Twp
		5/12/17	125-28231*	Washington	Cross Creek Twp
		5/12/17	125-28199*	Washington	Cross Creek Twp

available at [www.dep.pa.gov/DataandTools/Reports/Oil and Gas Reports/Pages](http://www.dep.pa.gov/DataandTools/Reports/Oil and Gas Reports/Pages).

The table is sorted by operator and lists the total wells reported as drilled last month. **Spud** is the date drilling began at a well site. The **API number** is the drilling permit number issued to the well operator. An asterisk (\*) after the API number indicates an unconventional well.

OPERATOR	WELLS	SPUD	API #	COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY		
		5/12/17	125-28200*	Washington	Cross Creek Twp		
		5/14/17	125-28210*	Washington	Nottingham Twp		
		5/15/17	125-28212*	Washington	Nottingham Twp		
		5/15/17	125-28208*	Washington	Nottingham Twp		
		5/15/17	125-28209*	Washington	Nottingham Twp		
		5/15/17	125-28211*	Washington	Nottingham Twp		
		5/20/17	125-28221*	Washington	Somerset Twp		
		5/20/17	125-28219*	Washington	Somerset Twp		
		5/20/17	125-28220*	Washington	Somerset Twp		
		5/20/17	125-28222*	Washington	Somerset Twp		
RE Gas Dev LLC	2	5/9/17	019-22594*	Butler	Center Twp		
		5/10/17	019-22593*	Butler	Center Twp		
Rice Drilling B LLC	13	5/1/17	125-27931*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/1/17	125-27933*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/1/17	125-27935*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/2/17	125-27941*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/2/17	125-27937*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/2/17	125-27939*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/6/17	125-27943*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/8/17	125-27953*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/8/17	125-28101*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/9/17	125-27949*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
Russ Holden Well Svc	2	5/9/17	125-27950*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/9/17	125-27951*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/9/17	125-27952*	Washington	N Bethlehem Twp		
		5/2/17	123-47969	Warren	Watson Twp		
		5/8/17	123-47968	Warren	Watson Twp		
		SWEPI LP	1	5/31/17	117-21905*	Tioga	Deerfield Twp
				5/3/17	115-22262*	Susquehanna	Jackson Twp
		SWN Production Co LLC	7	5/3/17	115-22263*	Susquehanna	Jackson Twp
				5/10/17	115-22214*	Susquehanna	Jackson Twp
				5/11/17	115-22218*	Susquehanna	Jackson Twp
5/12/17	115-22217*			Susquehanna	Jackson Twp		
5/13/17	115-22216*			Susquehanna	Jackson Twp		
5/14/17	115-22215*			Susquehanna	Jackson Twp		
Weldbank Energy Corp	3			5/17/17	123-48004	Warren	Mead Twp
				5/24/17	123-48001	Warren	Mead Twp
				5/30/17	123-48002	Warren	Mead Twp
XTO Energy Inc	2			5/22/17	065-27079*	Jefferson	McCalmont Twp
		5/22/17	065-27080*	Jefferson	McCalmont Twp		

	May	April	March	February	January	December
<b>Total wells</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>
Unconventional Gas	60	90	71	60	57	60
Conventional Gas	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oil	7	2	14	4	1	4



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## Calendar of Events

### PIOGA Events

Info: [www.pioga.org/events](http://www.pioga.org/events)

#### Pig Roast, Product & Equipment Roundup and Operators Forum & Leadership Summit

June 28-29, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion

#### PIOGATech: Aboveground Storage Tanks, Silica – Monitoring, Safety, the Regulations and You

July 27, The Chadwick Banquet Center, Wexford

#### 20th Annual Divot Diggers Golf Outing

August 24, Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Hermitage

### Industry events

#### IPAA Midyear Meeting

June 21-23, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, CA

Info: [www.ipaa.org/meetings-events](http://www.ipaa.org/meetings-events)

#### IOGANY Summer Meeting

July 12-13, Peak'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY

Info: [www.iogany.org/events](http://www.iogany.org/events)

#### IOGA West Virginia Summer Meeting

August 6-8, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV

Info: [iogawv.com/](http://iogawv.com/)

#### Ohio Oil & Gas Association Summer Meeting

August 7-8, Zanesville (OH) Country Club

Info: [www.ooga.org](http://www.ooga.org)

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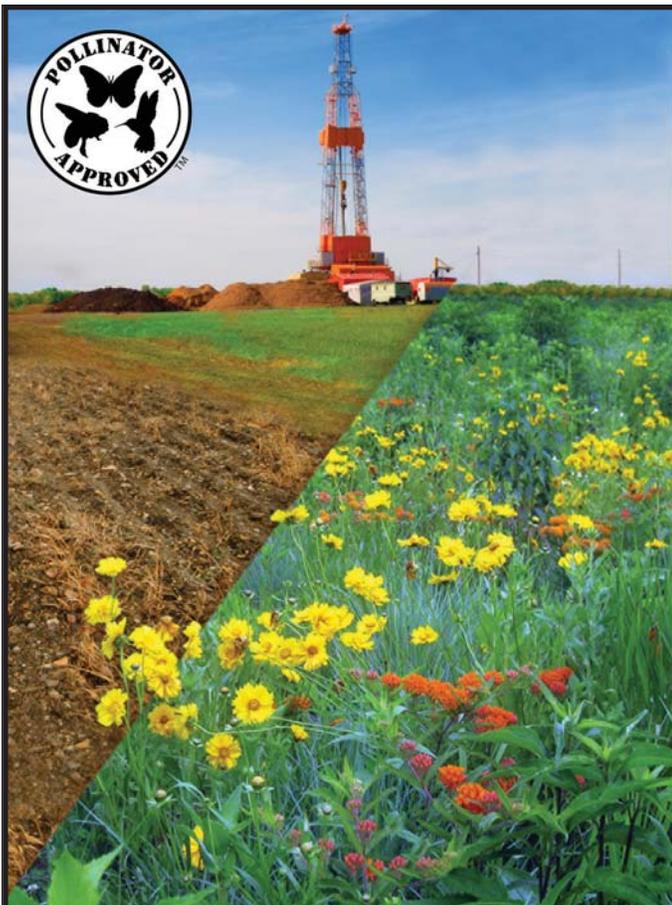
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