

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, October 6, 2010

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PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHES MARCELLUS SHALE TASK FORCE

The Pike County Board of Commissioners, seeing the need to be proactive on outreach, education, planning and action in regard to Marcellus Shale activities in Pike County, established a Marcellus Shale Task Force to serve the County. The Commissioners stated they see the county playing a key leadership role providing fact-based information to Pike County residents and county agencies and facilitating communication, cooperation, planning and education related to Marcellus activities in the County.

The Board of Commissioners spent several months assembling pertinent information on Task Forces from other counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, and the Southern Tier of New York. The Board feels that the structure for the Task Force should provide a functional organization which can move forward to build capacity for addressing the various potential impacts and opportunities that this new industry might provide for the County.

The Task Force will include several Committees including – Economic Development, Education, Environment, Planning/Government, Public Safety and Roads. A critical component of the overall Task Force will be input from our municipal government officials, so a Planning/Government Committee has been included in the overall Task Force structure. The Commissioners are asking each municipal governing board to appoint a member to the Planning/Government Committee so that municipal concerns can be addressed. Additionally, the Commissioners will ask the already existing Pike County Road Task Force which has municipal representation to serve as the Roads Committee.

The Commissioners stated they realize there are many individuals, groups and organizations that may have an interest in participating. “We anticipate that as the various Committees are established and begin to meet that these entities can provide input to the Task Force.” The Task Force will provide needed organization to guide planning, communication and education related to Marcellus activities.

It is anticipated that the Task Force will meet quarterly. The Commissioners will provide regular updates on the County website. Questions on the Task Force can be directed to the Commissioners office at 570-296-3569.