

Oil and Gas Well Permitting Process

Pennsylvania passed the Oil and Gas Act in 1984. The Oil and Gas Act (Act 223), Chapter 78 (regulations promulgated under Act 223) requires that all new wells be permitted by the state prior to being drilled, and also required that all existing wells be registered.

The DEP's Oil and Gas Program develops and enforces regulations for the bonding, permitting, and registration of wells, environmental requirements for drilling operations, waste disposal, cementing and casing of wells, and proper plugging of wells upon abandonment.

In order to drill a gas well or coalbed methane well in Pennsylvania, the operator needs to obtain a drilling permit from the Bureau of Oil and Gas management. The operator also has to prepare an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (E & S Plan) which must be posted on the well site for the duration of operations.

Landowners are entitled to a copy of a permit for a well that is to be drilled on their land. To obtain a copy of a permit for a well in the southwest region, contact DEP's Oil and Gas Management Program at the Southwest Regional Office (Pittsburgh) by calling 412 442 4000.

Other Contact Information for PA DEP's Oil and Gas Management Program:

Joe Umholtz, Chief, Division of Surface Activities
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Oil and Gas Management
PO Box 8765
5th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg PA 17105
717 772 2199 or 717 783 9645

Alan Eichler, Regional Manager
Department of Environmental Protection
Oil and Gas Management Program
Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh PA 15222
412 442 4024 or 412 442 4000

Stay Informed!

There are a few ways to monitor gas development in your area.

1. **E-Notice & E-Facts:** E-Facts is DEP's searchable database of permitting information. E-Notice is a notification system used by DEP to notify the public of permitting information. You can sign up for E-Notice and you'll receive email notification of any permits that are applied for or issued within the municipalities that you choose to track. To search the E-Facts database visit <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/efacts/default.asp>. To sign up for E-Notice, visit <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/enotice/>
2. **Monitor the legal section of your local newspaper:** Companies applying for permits to drill gas wells are required to place a notice in the legal section of the newspaper of general circulation in an area. These notices generally provide citizens with an opportunity to request a public hearing on a proposed permit.
3. **PA Bulletin:** The Pennsylvania Bulletin is published weekly and includes state agency notices including those from the Department of Environmental Protection. View it online at www.pabulletin.com.

You can also request to the PA DEP to review the permit files for gas wells. These files are located at PA DEP's Southwest Regional Office in Pittsburgh, PA. You must make an appointment to do a file review, and you can do this by calling PA DEP at 412 442 4000 and asking for the Oil and Gas Management Program. When you make your appointment, have the permit number or the exact location of the well or proposed well ready and be sure to request the following three items: permit file, correspondence file, and the inspection file.