

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2278 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BAKER, BOBACK, CLYMER, EVERETT, GROVE, C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MURT, O'NEILL, SONNEY, WATSON, WHITE, DeLUCA AND GINGRICH, MAY 29, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 24, 2014

AN ACT

1 Providing for operators of unconventional wells to make certain
2 reports to the Department of Environmental Protection;
3 imposing duties on the department; and repealing provisions
4 in Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the
9 Unconventional Well Report Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
15 the Commonwealth.

16 "Operator." A well operator.

17 "Unconventional formation." A geological shale formation
18 existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic

1 equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally  
2 cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes  
3 except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by  
4 hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well  
5 bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the  
6 well bore.

7 "Unconventional well." A bore hole drilled or being drilled  
8 for the purpose of or to be used for the production of natural  
9 gas from an unconventional formation.

10 Section 3. Unconventional well reports.

11 (a) Duty to report.--The operator of an unconventional well  
12 shall file with the department, on a form provided by the  
13 department, a monthly report specifying the amount of production  
14 on the most well-specific basis available.

15 (b) Timing and contents.--The initial report under this act  
16 shall be filed by ~~February 15,~~ MARCH 31, 2015, and specify the <--  
17 status of each well. In subsequent reports, only changes in  
18 status must be reported. Subsequent monthly reports shall be  
19 filed with the department ~~on or before the 15th day of each~~ <--  
20 ~~month~~ WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD and <--  
21 shall include production data from the preceding reporting  
22 period.

23 (c) Use of reports.--The Commonwealth may utilize  
24 information contained in reports filed under this act in  
25 enforcement proceedings, in making designations or  
26 determinations under section 1927-A of the act of April 9, 1929  
27 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, or  
28 in aggregate form for statistical purposes.

29 (d) Posting.--The department shall make the reports  
30 available on its publicly accessible Internet website.

1 (e) Costs.--Costs incurred by the department to comply with  
2 the requirements of this section shall be paid out of the fees  
3 collected under 58 Pa.C.S. § 3211(d) (relating to well permits).

4 Section 4. Repeals.

5 Repeals are as follows:

6 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under  
7 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate this act.

8 (2) The provisions of 58 Pa.C.S. § 3222(a.1) are  
9 repealed.

10 Section 5. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect as follows:

12 (1) Section 4 shall take effect ~~February 15,~~ MARCH 31, <--  
13 2015.

14 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect  
15 immediately.