

Week Ending  
2.27.09

## Marcellus Minutes

News from PA

Bigley and Blikle, LLC  
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### From The Capitol

**Budget Hearings:** This week Marcellus Shale issues were the topic of discussion during at least four separate budget hearings. Topics and questions ranged from drilling on state land, severance tax, permitting and water. Among many comments made by members, Senate Appropriations Chairman Jake Corman said to Acting DEP Secretary Hanger, *"I know you are optimistic that they can reach the level of what the Governor proposed in his budget for the extraction tax but I can tell you that you're not going to reach that level because we are not going to consider it until we get to the point in this permitting process"...* To see the rest of Senator Corman's comments and notes from all four hearings, [click here](#). To watch the entire hearing on video, [click here](#).

**Senator Gene Yaw (Lycoming)** has introduced **SB 297**. The bill changes the frequency of reporting requirements for wells and stipulates that they be posted on the Department of Environmental Protection's website. To see the co-sponsorship memo [click here](#). To see the legislation [click here](#).

**Representative Sam Roher (Berks)** has introduced **HB 623**. The bill amends the Oil and Gas Act requiring rents & royalties from oil & gas leases of PA land to be placed in a special fund used for conservation, recreation, dams & flood control; authorizing Sec. of Forests & Waters, further providing for Oil & Gas Lease Fund. To see the co-sponsorship memo [click here](#). To see the legislation [click here](#).

**Representative Martin Causer (McKean)** has introduced **HB 625** which amends Forest Reserves Municipal Financial Relief Law providing for distribution of timber, wood products and gas and oil ground rentals and royalties. To see the co-sponsorship memo [click here](#). To see the legislation [click here](#).

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### Legislation

The Pennsylvania General Assembly was not in session this past week. They have recessed until March 9. During the recess the House & Senate Appropriations Committees are holding hearings on the Governor's Budget Proposal. There have been 1101 bills introduced in the House and Senate to date.

**Next week:** The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will appear before Senate Appropriations. Discussion on the state land leased for gas exploration is likely to be discussed.

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## News

### [Everett Appointed Chair on Energy Committee](#)

The Luminary - Muncy,PA,USA

This session, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hopes to look at issues relating to the **Marcellus Shale**, electric rate increases, ...

### [Amid cheap gas, Pa. drillers carry on](#)

Wilkes Barre Times-Leader - Wilkes Barre,PA,USA

By Rory Sweeney [rsweeney@timesleader.com](mailto:rsweeney@timesleader.com) SCRANTON – The price of **natural gas** has dropped nearly to levels that make drilling in the Marcellus Shale ...

### [Court: Zoning key to gas drilling | The Intelligencer Now](#)

By Intelligencer staff writer Amanda Cregan

In written decisions Thursday, **Pennsylvania** Supreme Court justices sided with the state's authority to control **gas** drilling, deeming that local laws cannot be in conflict with state regulations already in place. But the court also confirmed that local officials ... The same issue is at the heart of Nockamixon supervisors' conflict with Michigan-based **gas** drilling company Arbor Resources, which is hoping to break ground in search of a **natural gas** goldmine in Upper Bucks. ...

### [NEWS UPDATE](#)

Scranton Times - Scranton,PA,USA

... for academic affairs, working with companies that have begun tapping the gas-rich **Marcellus Shale**, to see the types of skill and training workers need. ...

### [The danger down below](#)

Wilkes Barre Times-Leader - Wilkes Barre,PA,USA

Within the **Marcellus Shale** region, which stretches from New York to West Virginia, the SRBC covers a region from upstate New York west to Indiana County, ...

### [Pa. may reveal drillers' secrets in gas shale rush](#)

York Daily Record - York,PA,USA

Now, with a fresh wave of exploration companies flocking to Pennsylvania in pursuit of natural gas in the sprawling **Marcellus Shale** rock formation, ...

### [Gas drilling topic of Penn State 'webinars'](#)

Times Tribune-- MILFORD — Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Cooperative Extension are offering a series of online seminars about natural gas exploration in Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale...

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## Links & Resources

**New:** Watch an animated demo of the drilling process from **Chief Oil and Gas**. [Click here](#)

**Ron Gilius**, Director of the Bureau of Oil & Gas Management at DEP, gave an informative presentation to the House Republican Policy Committee last week. To view the powerpoint presentation, [click here](#).

Watch a PCN tour of the process a drilling company goes through. [Click here](#)

Department of Environmental Protection “Marcellus Page”. [Click here](#)

PA Marcellus Committee. [Click here](#)

Penn State Cooperative Extension. [Click here](#)

Susquehanna River Basin Commission. [Click here](#)

Delaware River Basin Commission. [Click here](#)

The Penn State Cooperative Extension held a very informative two day Natural Gas Summit in December. To see the presentations, [click here](#).

The Pennsylvania Senate Republican Policy Committee held an informational meeting on the Marcellus Shale formation. To access the various presentations and testimony, [click here](#).

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\*\*Please direct any questions or comments about this report to:

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