

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2707 Session of
1988

INTRODUCED BY J. L. WRIGHT, PETRARCA, DALEY, STAIRS, HALUSKA,
ARGALL, KASUNIC, S. H. SMITH, LUCYK, BLACK, MARKOSEK AND
WOZNIAK, OCTOBER 4, 1988

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON MINES AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT,
OCTOBER 4, 1988

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1069, No.214),
2 entitled "An act requiring coordination of coal mine and gas
3 well operators; authorizing Department of Environmental
4 Resources enforcement powers; and providing penalties,"
5 further providing for coordination of gas well drilling
6 through coal mines, and for plugging certain gas wells.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The heading and subsections (a) and (g) of
10 section 12 and section 13(b) of the act of December 18, 1984
11 (P.L.1069, No.214), known as the Coal and Gas Resource
12 Coordination Act, are amended to read:

13 Section 12. Coordination of gas well drilling through [active]
14 coal mines.

15 (a) When a proposed gas well is located above an active or
16 operating coal mine, then the owner of the coal mine may, within
17 ten days from the receipt by the department of the plat and
18 notice required by the Gas Operations Well-Drilling Petroleum
19 and Coal Mining Act, file objections, in writing, to such

1 proposed drilling with the department, setting out in detail the
2 ground or grounds upon which the objections are based.

3 * * *

4 (g) This section shall not apply to any [operating coal mine
5 when a gas well is proposed to be drilled through the mine] area
6 of an operating coal mine which is producing coal where the
7 proposed well will penetrate the underground workings in which
8 the department, pursuant to section 202 of the act of December
9 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the Oil and Gas Act,
10 determines that the proposed well would unduly interfere with or
11 endanger the mine.

12 Section 13. Plugging gas wells penetrating workable coal seams.

13 * * *

14 (b) [Where] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 210 of
15 the act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the
16 Oil and Gas Act, where the owner or operator of the gas well
17 proposes to plug a gas well drilled prior to November 30, 1955,
18 or a gas well permitted after such date but not plugged in
19 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a), for the
20 purpose of allowing the mining through of the gas well, the gas
21 well shall be cleaned out to a depth at least 200 feet below the
22 coal seam in which the mining through is proposed and, unless
23 impracticable, to a point 200 feet below the lowest mineable
24 coal seam. Such gas well shall then be plugged in accordance
25 with subsection (a)(1), (2), (3) or (4), whichever shall be
26 applicable.

27 * * *

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.