

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1374 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY M. WHITE, MAY 20, 2010

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY 20, 2010

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 definitions and for minimum distance
6 between gas wells.

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

9 Section 1. The definitions of "department" and "workable
10 coal seam" in section 2 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 2. Definitions.

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

17 * * *

18 "Department." The Department of Environmental [Resources]
19 Protection.

20 * * *

1 "Workable coal seam." A coal seam identified by the
2 [Topographical and Geological] Bureau of Topographic and
3 Geologic Survey of the Department of [Environmental]
4 Conservation and Natural Resources as capable of being mined by
5 underground methods.

6 Section 2. Section 7(b) and (c) of the act, amended November
7 29, 2004 (P.L.1341, No.171), are amended and the section is
8 amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 Section 7. Minimum distance between gas wells.

10 * * *

11 (b) The department shall, upon request of the permit
12 applicant or the owner of the workable coal seam which underlies
13 the proposed gas well, grant an exception from the minimum 1,000
14 feet distance requirement of subsection (a), where the permit
15 applicant and the owner of the workable coal seam consent in
16 writing. [In no case shall the minimum distance between the
17 proposed gas well and any other well be less than 900 feet
18 pursuant to this subsection.

19 (c) The department shall, upon the request of the permit
20 applicant or the owner of the workable coal seam which underlies
21 the proposed gas well, grant an exception to the requirements of
22 subsection (a), where the vertical distance between the
23 producing formation of the proposed gas well and the producing
24 formation of any other well is 1,000 feet or greater, where the
25 permit applicant and the owner of the workable coal seam consent
26 in writing.]

27 (d) No later than June 30, 2011, the Bureau of Topographic
28 and Geologic Survey shall update the identification of all
29 workable coal seams in this Commonwealth for purposes of this
30 act. The identification shall be maintained and updated on an

1 annual basis thereafter. The Bureau of Topographic and Geologic
2 Survey may utilize funds available to the Department of
3 Conservation and Natural Resources from the Oil and Gas Lease
4 Fund to meet the requirements of this subsection.

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

6 (1) The amendment of section 7(b) and (c) of the act
7 shall take effect August 1, 2011.

8 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
9 immediately.