
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 29 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY F. KELLER, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, GABLER, GEORGE,
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HALUSKA, HARRIS, MAJOR, MILLARD,
MUNDY, MURPHY, MURT, REICHLEY, ROSS, CULVER, VULAKOVICH,
WAGNER, YOUNGBLOOD, TAYLOR AND HARPER, OCTOBER 6, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
OCTOBER 6, 2011

AN ACT

1 Imposing duties on the Environmental Quality Board; and
2 providing for oil and gas well construction pad standards.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Oil and Gas
7 Well Pad Construction Standards Act.

8 Section 2. Duty of Environmental Quality Board to develop
9 standards.

10 (a) General rule.--The Environmental Quality Board shall
11 develop construction standards for well pads where
12 unconventional wells:

13 (1) Are drilled to produce oil or gas from a geological
14 formation existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its
15 geologic equivalent stratigraphic interval.

16 (2) Cannot produce oil and gas at economic flow rates or

1 in economic volumes except by using:

2 (i) vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by
3 hydraulic fracture treatments; or

4 (ii) multilateral well bores or other techniques to
5 expose more of the formation of the well bore.

6 (b) Scope.--The standards shall address any activity
7 relating to land clearing, excavation, grading, road
8 construction, pad construction and stabilization. The standards
9 shall include provisions that enhance spill response and
10 containment of any harmful chemicals or pollutants used at an
11 oil or gas well site during well drilling operations.

12 Section 3. Annual review of standards.

13 The Environmental Quality Board shall review the standards
14 developed under this act annually and shall update them as
15 necessary to reflect changes in technology or recognized best
16 management practices.

17 Section 4. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.