

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory
2 Council; and providing for duties of the Pennsylvania Grade
3 Crude Development Advisory Council and the Department of
4 Environmental Protection and for administrative support.

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 Pennsylvania
9 Grade Crude Development Advisory Council 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 the section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Council." The Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory
15 Council.

16 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
17 the Commonwealth.

18 "Secretary." The Secretary of Environmental Protection of

1 the Commonwealth.

2 Section 3. Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory
3 Council.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development
5 Advisory Council is established.

6 (b) Composition.--The council shall consist of the following
7 members:

8 (1) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development
9 or the secretary's designee.

10 (2) The Secretary of Environmental Protection or the
11 secretary's designee.

12 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President
13 pro tempore of the Senate.

14 (4) Two members of the House of Representatives
15 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

16 (5) The following members appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) Two representatives of the Pennsylvania
18 Independent Petroleum Producers.

19 (ii) Two representatives of the Pennsylvania
20 Independent Oil and Gas Association.

21 (iii) Two representatives of the Pennsylvania Grade
22 Crude Oil Coalition.

23 (iv) Two representatives of refineries of
24 Pennsylvania grade crude oil.

25 (v) One representative of a nonprofit corporation,
26 which has the purpose of promoting the history and
27 economic benefits of the conventional oil and gas
28 industry in this Commonwealth.

29 (vi) One representative of academia who is a
30 geologist with an expertise in petroleum geology.

1 (vii) One representative of academia who is a
2 hydrologist.

3 (c) Chairperson.--The council shall elect a chairperson from
4 among its members.

5 (d) Meetings.--The council shall meet upon the call of the
6 chairperson, but not less than semiannually. A simple majority
7 of the members shall constitute a quorum.

8 (e) Terms.--

9 (1) Except as stated in paragraph (2), the legislative
10 members of the council shall serve two-year terms commencing
11 with the first Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years and
12 may be reappointed upon reelection to office.

13 (2) Of the initial members appointed by the President
14 pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, members shall serve until the first Tuesday
16 in January of the first odd-numbered year after the end of
17 the year during which this section takes effect.

18 (3) Of the initial members appointed by the Governor:

19 (i) Four members shall serve initial terms of one
20 year.

21 (ii) Four members shall serve initial terms of two
22 years.

23 (iii) Three members shall serve initial terms of
24 three years.

25 (4) After the initial terms, individuals appointed by
26 the Governor shall serve for a term of three years.

27 (5) Individuals appointed by the Governor may be
28 appointed to successive terms.

29 (f) Vacancies.--Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder
30 of an unexpired term in the same manner as original

1 appointments. A member, upon expiration of the term, shall
2 continue to hold office until a successor is appointed.

3 (g) Quorum.--A majority of the membership of the council
4 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
5 Action may be taken on a matter before the council by a majority
6 vote of the full membership of the council.

7 (h) Compensation.--Council members may not receive
8 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all
9 necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in
10 connection with the performance of their duties as members.

11 Section 4. Study and report.

12 (a) Study.--The council shall:

13 (1) Examine and make recommendations regarding existing
14 technical regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.C.S. (relating
15 to oil and gas) and policies implemented by the department
16 that impact the conventional oil and gas industry of this
17 Commonwealth.

18 (2) Develop a regulatory scheme that provides for
19 environmental oversight and enforcement specifically
20 applicable to the conventional oil and gas industry.

21 (3) Ensure that its study addresses the need to preserve
22 the long-term viability of the conventional oil and gas
23 industry.

24 (b) Report.--The council shall issue a report of its
25 findings and recommendations under subsection (a) to all of the
26 following:

- 27 (1) The Governor.
28 (2) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.
29 (3) The President pro tempore of the Senate.
30 (4) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

1 (5) The chairman and minority chairman of the
2 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate.

3 (6) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 (7) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

5 (8) The chairman and minority chairman of the
6 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (c) Deadline.--The council shall submit the report under
9 subsection (b) within 180 days of the effective date of this
10 section.

11 Section 5. Duties of council.

12 The council shall have the following duties:

13 (1) To assist the secretary and provide written comments
14 on new departmental policy that will impact the conventional
15 oil and gas industry of this Commonwealth, including economic
16 consequences.

17 (2) To review and comment on the formulation and
18 drafting of all technical regulations promulgated under 58
19 Pa.C.S. (relating to oil and gas).

20 (3) To provide institutional support for the
21 conventional oil and gas industry of this Commonwealth by
22 ensuring effective cooperation and communication among
23 governmental agencies and the academic and research
24 community.

25 (4) To recommend appropriate measures relating to the
26 promotion and development of the conventional oil and gas
27 industry of this Commonwealth.

28 (5) To develop a plan to increase Pennsylvania grade
29 crude oil production to more adequately supply the refineries
30 which depend on Pennsylvania grade crude oil.

1 (6) To develop a joint working group with the department
2 to explore and develop economically viable production water
3 management options.

4 Section 6. Duties of department.

5 The department shall have the following duties:

6 (1) To consult with the council on all policies and
7 technical regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.C.S. (relating
8 to oil and gas).

9 (2) To include any written comments of the council
10 received before the department's submission of a proposed
11 rulemaking package to the Environmental Quality Board, as
12 part of its submission to the Environmental Quality Board.

13 Section 7. Administrative support.

14 The Department of Community and Economic Development shall
15 provide administrative support, office space and any other
16 technical assistance required by the council to carry out its
17 duties under this act.

18 Section 8. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect immediately.