
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 813 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, GOODMAN,
HALUSKA, HARHAI, JOSEPHS, MAHONEY, MUNDY, MURPHY, SIPTROTH,
THOMAS AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 25, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY
25, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to cease
2 and desist issuing, on an expedited basis, Erosion and
3 Sediment Controls General Permits for natural gas drilling
4 activities before conducting a technical review of the permit
5 application.

6 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Commonwealth of
7 Pennsylvania, Article I, section 27, states that: "The people
8 have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation
9 of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the
10 environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the
11 common property of all the people, including generations yet to
12 come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall
13 conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection, since
16 March 2009, has been issuing Erosion and Sediment Controls
17 General Permits for earth disturbance activities related to
18 natural gas drilling operations on an expedited basis without

1 conducting technical review of the permit applications; and
2 WHEREAS, Already three of the permits issued on an expedited
3 basis without technical review were based on applications that
4 failed to disclose information with respect to their impacts on
5 Exceptional Value or High Quality watersheds, including trout
6 streams, flaws which were detected not by the Department of
7 Environmental Protection but by a nonprofit organization and
8 which permits were revoked as a result; and

9 WHEREAS, Permits were issued on an expedited basis without a
10 technical review for earth disturbance activities related to
11 natural gas drilling in floodplains, thereby risking the
12 possibility of a severe case of water pollution in the event of
13 a flood; and

14 WHEREAS, The practice of issuing expedited permits without
15 conducting a minimal review of basic technical facts and
16 conditions necessary to protect the environment is unsustainable
17 and unwise; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
19 Department of Environmental Protection to cease and desist
20 issuing, on an expedited basis, Erosion and Sediment Controls
21 General Permits for natural gas drilling activities before
22 conducting a technical review of the permit application.