

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION****No. 813** Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, BISHOP, BOBACK, BRIGGS, COHEN, CONKLIN,  
D. COSTA, DEWEESE, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HANNA, HESS,  
HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, LEVDANSKY, MAJOR, MCILVAINE SMITH, MUNDY,  
MURPHY, SANTARSIERO, SIPTROTH, STABACK, VITALI AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 25, 2010

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

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## 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

1 natural gas drilling operations on an expedited basis without  
2 conducting technical review of the permit applications; and

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

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

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

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