

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1045 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, BOBACK, DALEY, EVERETT, FABRIZIO,
HORNAMAN, KORTZ, MILLARD, MUNDY, PASHINSKI, PICKETT,
REICHLEY, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER AND WHITE, MARCH 14, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 14, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223),
2 entitled "An act relating to the development of oil and gas
3 and coal; imposing duties and powers on the Department of
4 Environmental Resources; imposing notification requirements
5 to protect landowners; and providing for definitions, for
6 various requirements to regulate the drilling and operation
7 of oil and gas wells, for gas storage reservoirs, for various
8 reporting requirements, including certain requirements
9 concerning the operation of coal mines, for well permits, for
10 well registration, for distance requirements, for well casing
11 requirements, for safety device requirements, for storage
12 reservoir obligations, for well bonding requirements, for a
13 Well Plugging Restricted Revenue Account to enforce oil and
14 gas well plugging requirements, for the creation of an Oil
15 and Gas Technical Advisory Board, for oil and gas well
16 inspections, for enforcement and for penalties," in
17 preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions;
18 and, in general requirements, providing for the regulation of
19 natural gas compressor stations.

20 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. Section 103 of the act of December 19, 1984
23 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as the Oil and Gas Act, is amended by
24 adding a definition to read:
25 Section 103. Definitions.

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

4 * * *

5 "Natural gas compressor station." A permanent facility
6 housing a mechanical device which increases the pressure of
7 natural gas by reducing its volume in order for the natural gas
8 to be moved into transmission lines or into storage.

9 * * *

10 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
11 Section 217. Natural gas compressor stations.

12 (a) Each well operator shall provide to the department a
13 natural gas compressor station plan as part of the well
14 operator's permit application. The plan shall show the political
15 subdivision and county upon which tract of land the station will
16 be constructed, the name of all surface landowners within 2,500
17 feet of the proposed station, the amount of acreage to be used
18 by the station and exact location of the station on the tract.

19 (b) (1) Any new, existing or expanded natural gas
20 compressor station constructed under this section shall not
21 exceed a noise threshold of a day-night level of 55 dBA. The
22 operator of each natural gas compressor station shall conduct
23 a noise survey and submit a report of its findings to the
24 department within 60 days of completing the survey.

25 (2) (i) If the initial survey demonstrates the station
26 exceeds the noise day-night level specified in paragraph
27 (1), the department shall direct the operator to take the
28 necessary actions to ensure compliance.

29 (ii) The operator shall ensure that the facility
30 complies with the requirements of this subsection within

1 45 days of being notified by the department. Upon
2 completion of all noise mediation actions, the operator
3 shall conduct a second noise survey and submit the
4 results to the department within 45 days of completing
5 the second noise survey.

6 (3) The department shall issue orders as are necessary
7 to aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this section.
8 An order issued under this section shall take effect upon
9 notice unless the order specifies otherwise. The department
10 may suspend or cease operation of a station, if the station
11 continues to violate this section.

12 (c) An operator of a natural gas compressor station shall
13 notify, in writing, all landowners owning property, with or
14 without a residence, and within 2,500 feet of a proposed natural
15 gas compressor station 60 days prior to commencing construction
16 of the station. The notification shall, at a minimum, include:

17 (1) A brief description of the station to be constructed
18 or replaced and the effect the construction activity will
19 have on the landowner's property.

20 (2) The name and telephone number of the company
21 representative who is knowledgeable about the project.

22 (3) A description of the operator's complaint resolution
23 procedure, which procedure shall, at a minimum, include
24 providing landowners with clear and simple directions for
25 identifying and resolving concerns or problems that may occur
26 during construction or upon completion of the station.

27 (4) A local or toll-free telephone number or Internet
28 website and a name of a specific person to be contacted with
29 the responsibility for responding to landowner concerns and
30 complaints.

1 (5) Instructions to landowners regarding the right to
2 file a complaint with the department if the landowner
3 believes the operator's response is unsatisfactory.
4 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.