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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 995 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ARGALL, COSTA, ERICKSON, FOLMER, FONTANA,  
KASUNIC, ORIE, RAFFERTY, SCARNATI, SCHWANK, WASHINGTON,  
YUDICHAK, FARNESE, BROWNE AND MENSCH, APRIL 25, 2011

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND  
ENERGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 7,  
2011

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, requiring  
3 that the operator of each permitted unconventional ~~oil and~~ ←  
4 ~~gas well~~ WELLS within Pennsylvania post certain 911 response ←  
5 information at the entrance to each UNCONVENTIONAL well site. ←

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 7321. Unconventional ~~oil and gas~~ well 911 emergency response ←  
11 information.

12 (a) Emergency regulations.--The agency and the Department of  
13 Environmental Protection shall adopt emergency regulations  
14 directing the operators of all unconventional ~~gas and oil~~ wells ←  
15 within this Commonwealth to do all of the following:

16 (1) Adopt a unique GPS coordinate address for each  
17 unconventional ~~gas or oil~~ well at both the access road ←

1 entrance and wellpad site.

2 (2) Register that address with the agency, the  
3 Department of Environmental Protection and the county  
4 emergency management organization within the county where the  
5 unconventional gas or oil well is located. ←

6 (3) Require the development of an emergency response  
7 plan and file that plan with the agency, the Department of  
8 Environmental Protection and the county emergency management  
9 organization with jurisdiction over the unconventional gas or ←  
10 oil well. The county shall disseminate the GPS address and  
11 emergency response plan to the local emergency management  
12 organization in which the unconventional gas or oil well is ←  
13 located.

14 (4) Post a reflective sign at the entrance to each  
15 UNCONVENTIONAL well site with the specific address of that ←  
16 site, the coordinates for the site, the emergency contact  
17 number for the operator and such other information as the  
18 agency or the Department of Environmental Protection deems  
19 necessary.

20 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
21 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
22 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

23 "Unconventional oil or gas well." A bore hole drilled or ←  
24 being drilled for the purpose of or to be used for producing oil  
25 or gas from a geological formation existing below the base of  
26 the Elk Sandstone or its geologic equivalent stratigraphic  
27 interval where oil or gas generally cannot be produced at  
28 economic flow rates or in economic volumes except by vertical or  
29 horizontal well bores stimulated by hydraulic fracture  
30 treatments or by using multilateral well bores or other

1 ~~techniques to expose more of the formation of the well bore.~~

2 "UNCONVENTIONAL FORMATION." A GEOLOGICAL SHALE FORMATION  
3 EXISTING BELOW THE BASE OF THE ELK SANDSTONE OR ITS GEOLOGIC  
4 EQUIVALENT STRATIGRAPHIC INTERVAL WHERE NATURAL GAS GENERALLY  
5 CANNOT BE PRODUCED AT ECONOMIC FLOW RATES OR IN ECONOMIC VOLUMES  
6 EXCEPT BY VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL WELL BORES STIMULATED BY:

7 (1) HYDRAULIC FRACTURE TREATMENTS;

8 (2) USING MULTILATERAL WELL BORES; OR

9 (3) OTHER TECHNIQUES TO EXPOSE MORE OF THE FORMATION OF  
10 THE WELL BORE.

11 "UNCONVENTIONAL WELL." A BORE HOLE DRILLED OR BEING DRILLED  
12 FOR THE PURPOSE OF OR TO BE USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NATURAL  
13 GAS FROM AN UNCONVENTIONAL FORMATION.

14 Section 2. Regulations promulgated under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7321  
15 shall apply to both new and existing unconventional gas and oil  
16 wells within this Commonwealth.

17 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.