
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2278 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BAKER, BOBACK, CLYMER, EVERETT, GROVE,
C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, R. MILLER, MURT, O'NEILL,
SONNEY, WATSON AND WHITE, MAY 29, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MAY 29, 2014

AN ACT

1 Providing for operators of unconventional wells to make certain
2 reports to the Department of Environmental Protection;
3 imposing duties on the department; and repealing provisions
4 in Title 58 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

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
9 Unconventional Well Report 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 this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
15 the Commonwealth.

16 "Operator." A well operator.

17 "Unconventional formation." A geological shale formation
18 existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic

1 equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally
2 cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes
3 except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by
4 hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well
5 bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the
6 well bore.

7 "Unconventional well." A bore hole drilled or being drilled
8 for the purpose of or to be used for the production of natural
9 gas from an unconventional formation.

10 Section 3. Unconventional well reports.

11 (a) Duty to report.--The operator of an unconventional well
12 shall file with the department, on a form provided by the
13 department, a monthly report specifying the amount of production
14 on the most well-specific basis available.

15 (b) Timing and contents.--The initial report under this act
16 shall be filed by February 15, 2015, and specify the status of
17 each well. In subsequent reports, only changes in status must be
18 reported. Subsequent monthly reports shall be filed with the
19 department on or before the 15th day of each month and shall
20 include production data from the preceding reporting period.

21 (c) Use of reports.--The Commonwealth may utilize
22 information contained in reports filed under this act in
23 enforcement proceedings, in making designations or
24 determinations under section 1927-A of the act of April 9, 1929
25 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, or
26 in aggregate form for statistical purposes.

27 (d) Posting.--The department shall make the reports
28 available on its publicly accessible Internet website.

29 (e) Costs.--Costs incurred by the department to comply with
30 the requirements of this section shall be paid out of the fees

1 collected under 58 Pa.C.S. § 3211(d) (relating to well permits).

2 Section 4. Repeals.

3 Repeals are as follows:

4 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
5 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate this act.

6 (2) The provisions of 58 Pa.C.S. § 3222(a.1) are
7 repealed.

8 Section 5. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect as follows:

10 (1) Section 4 shall take effect February 15, 2015.

11 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
12 immediately.