



## Natural Gas Development Checklist for Municipal Officials

- ✓ **Become educated about:**
  - The natural gas development process and timeframes:
    - Leasing: 4-6 months
    - Exploration/Seismic: 4 months
    - Site Preparation & Drilling: 4 – 8 weeks
    - Site Reclamation: 2 weeks
    - Extraction & Transport: 5 – 40 years
    - Maintenance: Life of the well (5 – 40 years)
    - Closure
  
  - Potential impacts:
    - Environmental
    - Economic
    - Cultural
    - Municipal services and infrastructure
    - Land use
    - Community
    - Educational
  
  - Who the regulatory agencies are:
    - PA Department of Environmental Protection
    - PA Department of Transportation
    - County Conservation Districts
    - Susquehanna River Basin Commission
    - Delaware River Basin Commission
  
  - Who the gas industry representatives/contacts are
  
  - Who will have a stake in natural gas development in addition to the gas industry:
    - Landowners
    - Local businesses & subcontractors
    - Educational institutions
    - Chambers of commerce
    - Governmental officials and agencies
    - Conservancies and land trusts
    - Environmental interest groups
    - Citizens

- ✓ **Know your limitations and opportunities:**
  - Know what isn't regulated or regulated in a limited capacity
    - Oil & Natural Gas Act preemption
  
- ✓ **Inventory existing ordinances and documents and determine the need to update or create new:**
  - Comprehensive plan
  - Open space & recreation plan
  - Capital improvements plan
  - Official map
  - Zoning
  - Subdivision and land development ordinance
  - Driveway/access
  - Road posting and bonding
  - Check with your solicitor before making a decision or taking an action
  
- ✓ **Document what is important to your municipality and determine if it is impacted by the natural gas industry:**
  - Determine what authority you have over it
  - If none, pursue other non-regulatory options if deemed necessary
  - Share concerns with natural gas industry representatives and/or other applicable entities
  
- ✓ **Establish good communication and relationships relative to natural gas issues:**
  - Natural gas industry
  - Regulatory agencies
    - Sign up for DEP's eNotice
  - Emergency management agencies
  - Fellow elected officials
  - Community stakeholders
  - Citizens
  - Applicable municipal associations
  - Penn State Cooperative Extension
  
- ✓ **Become a good facilitator and negotiator.**
  
- ✓ **Determine the role you want to play:**
  - Reactive
  - Proactive
  
- ✓ **Authorize responsible municipal entity for staying current with natural gas information/issues since natural gas development impacts will most likely surpass the existing terms of local officials:**
  - Elected official (Chair, Vice-Chair, etc.)
  - Municipal planning commission
  - Environmental advisory committee
  - Task force

Prepared by:  
Neal Fogle, Economic and Community Development Educator  
Lycoming County Cooperative Extension  
[nef3@psu.edu](mailto:nef3@psu.edu)  
570 433-3040



This publication is available in alternative media on request.  
Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.