

TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

DENNY PUKO
PA DCED

POTENTIAL

Positive

- Economic benefit
- Community growth

Challenges

- Community change
- Environmental impacts
- Increased demands for municipal services

EXPERIENCES IN WYOMING & TEXAS

- Industry will employ large numbers of jobs at good wages
- Industry will need services, contractors, equipment, and goods
- Leases and royalties to local landowners will create new local wealth

LOCAL ECONOMIC RETURN

- Will not happen automatically – will take local effort to get the most and best economic return
- Will not last forever – about 20, 30, 40 years

MORE EXPERIENCES IN WY & TX

- Workforce shortages for non-gas businesses
- Population growth
- Housing growth and inflation of housing costs (C.O.L.)
- Accompanying infrastructure expenses (water, sewer, roads, recreation, libraries, schools)
- Increases in traffic accidents, crime, and EMS calls

THINGS TO DO

1. Form a county/community natural gas task force
 - Communicate frequently
 - Share information
 - Be prepared to act fast

THINGS TO DO

2. Work cooperatively with gas company officials
 - Be direct
 - Nurture gas company interest to be member of the community in good standing
 - Great role for gas task force

THINGS TO DO

3. Track data

- Well drilling, employment, income, housing, crime, emergency calls, library patronage, and more

THINGS TO DO

4. Use planning tools
 - Comprehensive plan
 - Land use targeting tools – zoning, Act 537 sewage facilities plan

THINGS TO DO

5. Organize the business community
 - Promote local businesses to gas companies – business directory
 - Other organized promotions, marketing, events, etc.
 - Use the Main Street approach

THINGS TO DO

6. Invest in the post-Marcellus economy

As growth occurs and new revenue is realized:

- Invest (reinvest) in infrastructure that will continue to serve the community after the boom
- Invest in (and protect) community assets that will make the community attractive for new homes and businesses (image=economy)
 - Landmark buildings, local attractions, gathering places, parks, downtowns, scenic spots
- Work with economic development groups to grow entrepreneurs and businesses for a more diverse economy

LOCAL REGULATION OF GAS ACTIVITY

- Generally pre-empted by PA Oil & Gas Act
 - Well location, protection of water supply, well site safety, notice of permits, well site bonding, and more
- Decision pending in PA Supreme Court
 - Huntley & Huntley v. Borough Council of the Borough of Oakmont
 - Range Resources - Appalachia, LLC. v. Salem Township

RESOURCES

- Planning funds – DCED LUPTAP, DEP Act 537, DCNR rec & open space, PennDOT
- Zoning funding – DCED LUPTAP
- DCED Shared Municipal Services
- DCED special studies & peers – fire, police, government services