
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 202 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY KASUNIC, YUDICHAK, ALLOWAY, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER,
FONTANA, HUGHES, SOLOBAY, TARTAGLIONE, WASHINGTON AND
D. WHITE, OCTOBER 18, 2011

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the oil and gas industry to utilize acid mine water in
2 fracturing Marcellus Shale for natural gas extraction,
3 whenever economically feasible and environmentally safe.

4 WHEREAS, Certain regions of Pennsylvania have a half-century-
5 old problem with abandoned coal mines which fill with water; and

6 WHEREAS, The water in the abandoned mines becomes highly
7 acidic and laden with dissolved metals that enter our rivers and
8 streams making them uninhabitable for wildlife and unsuitable
9 for human consumption; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 2,500 miles of streams have been
11 degraded by acid mine drainage, and it is the greatest single
12 source of water pollution in this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, It is estimated that it would require more than
14 \$5,000,000,000 in capital costs to treat and clean the acid mine
15 water in Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, Water is an essential component in Marcellus Shale
17 gas development; and

18 WHEREAS, Drilling a typical Marcellus Shale deep gas well

1 requires 100,000 gallons of water; and

2 WHEREAS, Hydraulically fracturing a typical Marcellus Shale
3 horizontal deep gas well requires an average 5,500,000 gallons
4 of water; and

5 WHEREAS, The use of acid mine water to drill and fracture
6 Marcellus Shale horizontal deep gas wells would keep millions of
7 gallons of this acidic water out of Pennsylvania waterways, and
8 would yield an immediate environmental benefit; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the oil and gas industry to
10 utilize acid mine water in fracturing Marcellus Shale for
11 natural gas extraction whenever economically feasible and
12 environmentally safe.