Gas and You: The Political Lay of the Land

Our Political Situation

Regulations- Past & Future

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Political Lay of the Land
2010 Election Results
Pennsylvania

- **Governor**
  - Tom Corbett 54.5%
  - Dan Onorato 45.5%

- **House**
  - Republicans picked up 13 seats
  - New breakdown is 112 R – 91 D

- **Senate**
  - Remains 30 R – 20 D
2010 Election Results
Pennsylvania

- Significant Environmental Losses

  Rep. Dave Levdansky (Allegheny)
  Rep. David Kessler (Berks)
  Rep. Rick Taylor (Montgomery)
  Rep. Barbara McIlvaine Smith (Chester)
2010 Election Results

Federal

Nationally

- Senate
  
  New Breakdown is 51 D - 47 R – 2 I
  Democrats lost 6 seats

- House
  
  New Breakdown is 242 R – 193 D
  Democrats lost 63 seats
2010 Election Results

Federal

Pennsylvania

- Senate
  - Pat Toomey 51%
  - Joe Sestak 49%

- House
  - New Breakdown is 12 R – 7 D
  - Democrats lost 5 seats
2010 Election Results
Pennsylvania

- Significant Environmental Losses
  - Nationally
    - Congresswoman Betsy Marky (CO 4)
    - Congressman Mark Schauer (MI 7)
    - Senator Russ Feingold (WI)
  - Pennsylvania
    - Congressman/Senate Candidate Joe Sestak
    - Congressman Patrick Murphy (PA 8)
Regulations

Agency Proposal

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)
- 20 members: 11 agency heads, 4 legislators, & 5 members of the Citizen Advisory Council
- Public Comment Period Occurs

Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)
- 5 members
- Certify the agency’s authority & determine if it is consistent with legislative intent.
- Considers economic impact, public health and safety, reasonableness, and clarity
- Legislative Comment Period Occurs

Governor
2010 Victories

- **Chapter 78 (Passed in Nov)**
  - Upgrade requirements for cementing of well casings
  - Prevent migration of gas and fluids which could contaminate our waterways and aquifers.

- **Chapter 95 (Passed in Aug)**
  - Set new treatment requirements for wastewater from Marcellus Shale drilling
  - Lowers the acceptable level of TDS, chlorides, barium, and strontium a new or expanding facility can accept or discharge
DEP’s New Face

Michael Krancer

- Montgomery County resident

- Judge on the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board

- Assistant general counsel for Exelon Corporation (08 -09)
  - one of the world’s largest power producers and wholesale marketers.
  - It is the largest owner/operator of nuclear plants in the United States.
Enforcing the Regulations

- April 09 - DEP stripped County Conservation Districts of the authority to review gas well drilling erosion and sedimentation plans.

- DEP’s budget was cut 9.2% in 2010. This is on top of 2009’s 26% cut.

- DEP issued 638 total violations in 2009 & 571 total violations from January to July of 2010.

- “Although the DEP increased inspectors in 09’ & 10” more are needed to cover the burgeoning gas industry.”

- DEP Secretary John Hanger (Nov 2010)