

Conservation Committee Report

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Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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DEP Effort Encourages Oil and Gas Industry to Use Mine Drainage Water

The Department of Environmental Protection announced today the preliminary process it will use for authorizing the use of acid mine drainage water for oil and gas operations, including Marcellus Shale wells.

“Acid mine drainage impairs more than 5,000 miles of streams in our state, making it ideal for operators to take the drainage out of our waterways and put it to use for hydraulic fracturing,” DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. “As natural gas extraction does not re-

quire drinking quality water, this represents a real win-win that can address two water challenges at once.”

Each day, more than 300 million gallons of acid mine drainage discharges into state waterways from sites in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions. The drainage impairs more miles of rivers and streams than any other source of pollution.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process that injects a mixture of sand and water into the cracks of

rock formations to create fissures that allow more oil and gas to be extracted. Hydrofracturing a typical Marcellus Shale well requires between five million and eight million gallons of water. As freshwater is not required for fracturing operations, acid mine drainage can present a safe and viable alternative.

The hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus Shale wells takes place deep underground, 5,000 to 8,000 feet below

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EPA Approves Three Alternative Refrigerants to Replace Hydrofluorocarbons in Commercial and Household Freezers

First time that hydrocarbon substitutes will be widely used in the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has added three hydrocarbons as acceptable alternatives in household and small commercial

refrigerators and freezers through EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. EPA took

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DEP Effort Encourages Oil and Gas Industry to Use Mine Drainage Water (continued)

groundwater tables. This use of acid mine drainage presents minimal risk to groundwater, as there is no evidence that groundwater in Pennsylvania has been impacted by hydraulic fracturing.

DEP completed a preliminary position paper that outlines how requests to use acid mine drainage water for hydraulic fracturing will be reviewed. Operators making such requests will work with DEP program staff to identify potential sources of water

from acid mine drainage sites. DEP will then determine the necessary permits and storage and treatment requirements on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, oil and gas companies may provide financial support to acid mine drainage trust funds, ensuring that treatment continues long after there is a need for the water in hydraulic fracturing.

Over the next several months, DEP will host input sessions to gather comments from members of environmental groups and in-

dustry. The process will be revised and improved as needed until the department publishes a final position paper on the issue in February 2012. For more information and to view the position paper, visit www.dep.state.pa.us or call 717-787-5015.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

EPA Approves Three Alternative Refrigerants to Replace Hydrofluorocarbons in Commercial and Household Freezers (continued)

action after requests from Ben and Jerry's and General Electric, as well as A.S. Trust & Holdings, and True Manufacturing, a family-owned small business. These businesses are helping to clear the way for U.S. companies to use ozone layer-protective hydrocarbon refrigerants.

"Today's action is a great example of how businesses and EPA can work together to protect our planet and drive innovation," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "This action increases the options for ef-

fective, climate-friendly refrigerants in the U.S."

Under the Clean Air Act, the SNAP program evaluates substitute chemicals and technologies for ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The three hydrocarbon refrigerants approved as accept-

able substitutes, with use conditions, are propane, isobutane, and a chemical known as R-441A. These newly-approved refrigerants can be used to replace ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-12 and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-22 in household refrigerators, freezers, combination refrigerator-freezers, and com-

mercial stand-alone units. SNAP is unique and globally recognized as the only program designed specifically to evaluate substitutes for ODS and to focus on the industrial sectors that use them.

Replacing older refrigerants will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 600,000 metric

tons by 2020, equal to the emissions from the annual electricity use of nearly 75,000 homes, and will help protect people's health and the environment.

At the recent 23rd Meeting of the Montreal Protocol Parties, EPA and the U.S. Department

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EPA Approves Three Alternative Refrigerants to Replace Hydrofluorocarbons in Commercial and Household Freezers (continued)

of State announced that 108 countries signed a declaration to address hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). While HFCs are ODS substitutes, they are increasingly contributing to climate change. The approval of hydrocarbons in the U.S. is significant because hydrocarbons are more environmentally-friendly substitutes than HFCs.

Learn more about EPA's globally-recognized SNAP Program

and the three substitutes at:
www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DEP Announces \$1 Million Grant for Electric Car Charging Stations at PA Turnpike Service Plazas

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection today announced a \$1 million grant award to help develop electric vehicle infrastructure on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The grant recipient, Car Charging Group, Inc., will install charging stations at 17 Turnpike service plazas.

"Pennsylvania has been -- and will continue to be -- a nationwide leader on energy issues in all sectors," DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said.

"The Pennsylvania Turnpike has a long history of innovation in highway transportation," Turnpike Commission Chairman William K. Lieberman said. "We are

pleased to participate in the effort to expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Pennsylvania by offering electric car owners easy access to charging stations at convenient locations."

Level II charging stations, which can charge a car in roughly four hours, and Level III charging stations, which can charge a car in about 20 minutes, will be installed at the service plazas in three phases.

The first phase of the work will be incorporated into ongoing service-plaza renovations between Harrisburg and New Jersey. Later phases will involve service plazas between Harrisburg and Ohio, and then along

the Northeastern Extension. The project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2013.

The Turnpike Commission has also committed up to \$500,000 in electric upgrades at the plazas to provide the charging stations with the necessary voltage.

The DEP grant is provided through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program, which is funded by a portion of the gross utilities receipts tax.

For more information about DEP, visit www.dep.state.pa.us or call 717-783-8411.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Congress Overturns Ban On Incandescent Light Bulbs

Congressional negotiators struck a deal that overturns the new rules that would have banned sales of traditional incandescent light bulbs beginning in 2012, *The Washington Times* reported.

According to the newspaper, Congressional Republicans won inclusion of the light bulb provision into the massive 1,200 page spending bill. This move prevents the Administration of President Barack Obama from carrying through a 2007 law that would have set energy efficiency

standards which would have rendered the traditional light source obsolete.

Although the bill doesn't amend the 2007 law, it prohibits the Administration from spending any money to carry out the light bulb standards, the *Times* reported.

The Hill reported that the light bulb standards put forth by the Energy Department have come under fire from conservatives in recent months. The energy legislation contained provisions that would require traditional incan-

descent bulbs to be 30 percent more efficient starting in 2012.

Republicans had described the standards as a "light bulb ban," arguing that the rules would restrict consumer choice by pushing out traditional incandescent bulbs in favor of more expensive, but more efficient, LED (light emitting diode) and CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs, according to the news outlet.

Source: Personal Liberty News Desk

