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Public Hearing on Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Wastewater Treatment Issues

VIDEO **AUDIO** - 2:04

Senate Committee Conducts Hearing on Marcellus Shale Wastewater Issues

Harrisburg -- The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-21), held a public hearing today on Marcellus Shale natural gas wastewater treatment issues.

The Marcellus Shale is a rock formation that underlies approximately two-thirds of Pennsylvania and portions of the states of New York and West Virginia and is believed to hold trillions of cubic feet of clean-burning natural gas.

Extracting natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation requires a process used in drilling for decades known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." After the well is drilled, large amounts of water, sand and other fluids are pumped into the shale formation under high pressure to fracture the shale around the well, which allows the natural gas to flow freely to the well bore. Once the process is completed, the used water must be reused in the next well or sent to an approved treatment facility.

The committee heard from Department of Environmental Protection officials, industry representatives and others.

"Today's hearing provided an overview of the challenges faced from Marcellus Shale wastewater, and how we can best meet them," White said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Pennsylvania to produce not only an abundant supply of clean energy, but scores of well-paying jobs. At the same time, citizens have a right to expect that their natural resources and communities are being respected, that the gas is produced safely, and that our land and water resources are protected. I am confident that we can achieve the proper balance."

Hearing testimony, transcripts and video is posted on the committee website at www.senatormjwhite.com (click "Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee).

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