

**From:** Menegazzi, James [menegazzijj@upmc.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2010 11:38 AM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Cc:** 'jpippy@pasen.gov'  
**Subject:** Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling

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Dear Senator Pippy, Environmental Quality Board, and State Representatives,

I write to urge you to pass strict regulation of all Marcellus Shale Gas drilling operations in our Commonwealth. The second recent explosion resulting in deaths is evidence that this type of drilling is both dangerous and not being properly overseen.

I encourage strict financial penalties for drilling companies that violate state law. Extreme penalties should be administered to companies with repeat offenses, even loss of licensure to drill.

We must have a severance tax on this production. These companies have come pouring into Pennsylvania to take advantage of the fact that we are foolish enough to not have a severance tax.

Finally, the waste water from these wells, high in total dissolved solids, must be properly handled. This can only be assured with proper oversight from the State, as companies cannot be trusted to do this on their own. Part of the severance tax revenues could be used to hire more personnel to oversee drilling operations.

Even though I am a land owner who has leased my property to one of these Texas-based companies and am making a substantial amount of money from royalties, I would favor a moratorium on drilling until the State can catch up to industry. At the very least, there should be a moratorium on new wells being drilled until these activities can be brought under control.

This gas has been in place for millions of years. Please do not allow short-sighted profiteering to ruin the Pennsylvania environment, and the health of our people and wildlife.

Sincerely,  
James J. Menegazzi, PhD  
230 Lavina Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216