

County of Lycoming Community Gas Exploration Task Force

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July 18, 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

Gas Exploration Task Force visits Barnett Shale

Ten members of the Lycoming County Community Gas Exploration Task Force recently visited their counterpart in Tarrant County, Texas, to share first-hand the experiences and lessons learned from gas exploration of the Barnett Shale.

In mid-May, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lycoming and the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce partnered to establish a Community Gas Exploration Task Force. Its mission is to identify key issues, research facts and information, and review and propose public policy regarding the positive, economic impact of gas exploration of the Marcellus Shale in Lycoming County (see attachment 1). The 15-member Task Force has been meeting weekly.

During the period July-8-11, ten members of the Task Force traveled to Tarrant County, Texas, for meetings arranged by Tarrant County Economic Development Coordinator, Lisa McMillan (see attachment 2). The Lycoming County contingent was joined by Mr. Joseph McGowan, an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“The visit to Tarrant County to meet with and hear from those who have experienced the economic opportunities and challenges brought about by gas exploration of the Barnett Shale was extremely valuable,” said Commissioner Rebecca Burke, the Task Force Chairperson. “We obtained valuable insights and approaches as Lycoming County seeks to inform our citizens and businesses regarding gas exploration in the Marcellus Shale here at home.”

Dr. Vince Matteo, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce CEO, agreed. “We are offered tremendous opportunities and challenges through gas exploration in Lycoming County. The Tarrant County visit will help us to embrace the economic development provided over the next several years by gas exploration in a way that will be supportive of business and industry and mindful of our environmental obligations.”

Commissioner Burke, Dr. Matteo and Dr. Kathleen Kelley, are available to meet with the Williamsport *Sun-Gazette* Editorial Board to share their observations, lessons learned and perceptions regarding the future as a result of the Task Force’s recent Texas visit.



A contingent from the Lycoming County Community Gas Exploration Task Force visited Tarrant County, Texas, earlier this month to obtain first-hand insights about gas exploration of the Barnett Shale