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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Marcellus Well Site Spacing

Re: Marcellus Well Site Spacing

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URL:

I find it possible that you are seeing the difference between horizontal and vertical wells. Many in the Marcellus play are indeed using vertical wells, especially in the western side of the state, where the formation is apparently thicker.

They have 1 well per site, so the pad is "disturbed" for far less time before they finish the well. They also use far less water, pressure, etc., and that often results in smaller pads as well. But well spacing is much tighter.

For shallow wells, 10-20 acre spacing was/is not uncommon. For deep vertical wells, 40-80 acre spacing is among the norm.

Horizontal well spacings are much larger, and more variable, I think. For the ideal scenario, with 8-12 wells/pad, I think that's where the 2 mile figure came from. But perhaps it's less if they have less wells/pad. If, in practice, the figure is far less than originally thought, that's something I'd like to know. IMO, even if they do use less water and pressures and so forth, the biggest impact is the pads, and denser spacing certainly increases the impact.