

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Marcellus Well Site Spacing

Re: Marcellus Well Site Spacing

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Date: : 2013/4/15 8:11:34

URL:

I also know in WV, at least, they do limit well spacing, I think PA might too. Whether it's strict enough to change this spacing I don't know.

The reason they limited it was competition between companies. A wider spacing may be acceptable to EVENTUALLY retrieve all the gas, and if it were 1 company, that would suit just fine. But when one company would sink a well, another would jump in and sink one nearby. They're both taking from the same pool of gas! It's essentially a race to get it first. And of course, now that first company has an incentive to get it quicker, so perhaps they sink ANOTHER well. On and on it goes.

From the public's perspective, this is just stupid. The idea is to maximize total gas recovery while minimizing impacts. We care little about a competitive race. Hence, well spacing regulations. You can't sink a well if another well is located within X miles, or however it's stated to basically mean "pulling from the same gas reservoir".

If this is what is going on, then we need to look at implementing or strengthening spacing regulations. And yes, I do think this is a proper role of government!