

MARCELLUS SHALE TASKFORCE
Fayette County PA

www.mshaletaskforce.org (Underdevelopment - soon to be launched)
zimmerlink@mshaletaskforce.org - General Contact
Tele: 724-785-4156
PO Box 101 Allison PA 15413

=====

Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink announces that she is forming a Marcellus Shale natural oil and gas taskforce for Fayette County and is seeking members to serve on subcommittees.

Zimmerlink said “there is no doubt the Marcellus Shale gas exploration has both positive and negative impacts on Fayette County.....it is evident that there is a need for coordination and communication among the gas industry, local governments, businesses and the public and this taskforce will serve as a community tool to manage this process”

Eleven counties with active Marcellus Shale drilling have a taskforce and with Fayette County becoming active Zimmerlink said she recognized and heard the needs of the public and as a result initiated the forming of a community based task force”, said Zimmerlink.

The mission, focus and approach of this task force is mirrored after existing county task forces and guidance from publications of Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Pittsburgh. Zimmerlink said “the mission is to identify key issues; research facts and information; provide public education; and propose public policy regarding the economic, environmental and community impact of the oil and gas exploration and related topics of the Marcellus Shale in Fayette County in a proactive not reactive manner” while the focus is to “seize economic opportunities; protect the environment and educate the public related to Marcellus Shale development in Fayette County” all of which will be done with public participation.

The task force subcommittees will focus on eight areas: workforce, public safety, planning, public education, environment, economic development, community impacts and legislation. “Information will be disseminated through public presentations, public meetings and a website which is underdevelopment” said Zimmerlink.

The task force will look at the Marcellus Shale activity in Fayette County and will strive to include different groups and interests such the business community, environmental concerns, municipalities and the public. “I want to create a beneficial cooperative effort” and to that end Zimmerlink said she has contacted stakeholders requesting them to join a subcommittee and she asks anyone who wishes to join or to learn more about the taskforce to contact her.

Dated July 1 2010
Angela Zimmerlink, Fayette County Commissioner