

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105**

**EN BANC HEARING TO
INVESTIGATE ISSUES RELATED
TO THE MARCELLUS SHALE**

**Public Meeting March 11, 2010
C-0005**

**JOINT MOTION OF
VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY AND
COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON**

The Marcellus Shale, one of the largest natural gas deposits in the world, was first discovered in 1830. At that time, little was known of the extent of the shale, or of how to harness its potential. Much has changed, however. In 2002, the United States Geological Survey estimated the Shale contained 1.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. In 2008, that estimate was revised to 50 trillion cubic feet. To put that in perspective, some estimate that the Marcellus Shale contains enough natural gas to meet this country's energy demand for over 20 years, and Pennsylvania's energy demand for well over 100 years.

Further, rising energy costs and innovations in natural gas drilling technologies have enhanced the economics of Marcellus Shale development. This development will unleash billions of dollars of natural gas production, and will have untold impacts on our economy. A recent Penn State study estimated that Marcellus will generate \$13.5 billion per year in economic value and create 175,000 jobs by 2020 just to Pennsylvania.

However, this development creates numerous issues and unanswered questions, many of which impact this Commission's core functions.¹ We believe that these issues need to be examined and these questions answered sooner rather than later so that we can fully protect the public while not stifling economic growth.

We therefore announce that this Commission will convene an *en banc* hearing on April 22, 2010, to examine jurisdictional issues related to Marcellus Shale development. We will issue a Secretarial Letter shortly inviting certain interested parties to testify, and directing specific questions to those parties.

THEREFORE, We move that:

1. The Law Bureau, in consultation with the Bureau of Transportation and Safety and the Bureau of Fixed Utility Services, prepare an Opinion and Order consistent with this Motion.

**Tyrone J. Christy
Vice Chairman**

**Robert F. Powelson
Commissioner**

Dated: March 11, 2010

¹ We do not intend to examine issues outside of this Commission's jurisdiction, such as water quality and other environmental issues.