



Tioga Investigates Natural Gas (TING)
Summary
March 2010

Mission: *“To address public sector impacts and opportunities of natural gas drilling in Tioga County.”*

TING Steering Committee:

Representatives from:

Tioga County Legislature

Town Boards

Tioga County Economic Development & Planning

Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership

Tioga County Farm Bureau

Tioga County Council of Governments

Tioga County Environmental Management Council (geologic engineer)

Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension

Tioga County GIS/ITCS

and

2 At Large positions

TING Subcommittees and Activities:

Public Safety (TC EMO, Sheriff, Fire Coordinator)

- Research enforcement, EMS and Fire impacts in Wyoming and Texas
- Researching Fire and EMS impacts in Bradford, Susquehanna, Tioga and Lycoming Counties in PA.
- Want to have required meetings with gas drilling companies before construction
- Requiring fire & safety site plans

Environmental Impacts (TC EMC lead)

- Researching existing federal and state regulations that apply to the gas industry.
- Reviewed and commented on NYS DEC dSGEIS for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling
- Conduct countywide natural resource inventory that would be eligible to record with NYS DEC
- Provide municipalities with GIS maps of sensitive resources
- Focusing on educating municipalities about their natural resources. When the Final SGEIS is released, assist municipalities in developing local laws on issues that are not covered such as wellhead protection, aquifer protection, noise and light ordinances.
- Educating landowners on local resources they can turn to when negotiating gas leases such as forestry consultants, advice on access roads and pipeline location/mitigation

- Encouraging collaboration with gas drilling companies

Water Quality (TC Public Health lead)

- Establish baseline of water quality in the Clinton Street Ball Park Aquifer by analyzing collected data from municipal water supplies
- Distribute information on what households with private drinking water sources should test for and where they can get these services.
- Develop model municipal wellhead protection and aquifer protection ordinances for municipalities to utilize

Roads (TC Superintendent Highway Association and TC Municipal Attorneys Consortium lead)

- Establish a uniform road usage agreement with gas companies for every municipality to utilize that includes routes designation, means of up-front payment for road repair, and 911 address requirement
- Assist municipalities in conducting road assessments and inventories possibly using the Cornell Local Roads Program.

Workforce (Tioga Employment Center and CCE Tioga lead)

- Identify jobs that will be available and in demand using local workers
- Connect residents to gas drilling related job training opportunities through the Tioga Employment Center, WIA, and BOCES

Communications (TING SC members lead)

- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy including continual media press releases to inform of TING's progress, and presentations to municipal officials
- Develop a resources binder organized by subcommittee category for use by municipalities and gas companies

Mapping (TC GIS Lead)

- GIS mapping of various attributes on a municipality and county basis for an overall resource. Attributes include such things as municipal boundaries, roads and designated routes, gas well permit applications, existing gas wells, environmentally sensitive areas, well head protection areas and many, many more.
- Value-added mapping with many layers in user-friendly .pdf (Adobe 9) format where layers can be clicked on or off

Business Opportunities (TC Chamber of Commerce lead) – Has spun off from TING

- Emulate Bradford County, PA directory of gas drilling related businesses and services
- Get a better handle on short-term, temporary housing availability such as campgrounds and rooms for rent by creating database.
- Create a multiple family housing availability map from database
- Organize and hosted a “Gas Drilling is Coming – Are You Ready” breakfast seminar for merchants, restaurants and other small business owners to prepare them for increase in demand for their services. Gas industry representatives informed 125 small business attendees of their needs.

END GOAL:

- Municipal preparation for interfacing with gas industry companies
- Resource Binder / handbook for municipalities organized by subcommittee topic with checklists, model ordinances, model agreements, resource maps and recommendations for actions and items needed from gas companies focusing on safety and mitigation. Could also be utilized by gas companies.

TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS:

- For beginning community taskforces - General training on Marcellus Shale Drilling and potential impacts, such as the November 30th CCE Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Summit
- Road inventory and assessment assistance for Highway Superintendents from the Cornell Local Roads Program
- Sharing of model ordinances for impacts not covered in the FSGEIS and permit regulations such as noise, light and aquifer/wellhead protection
- Support the State Soil & Water Conservation Districts Committee and the county Soil & Water Conservation Districts in their effort to collaborate with NYS DEC and enable the local SWCD staff to conduct natural gas well site construction and pipeline inspections and mitigation.