

# SURFACE ISSUES: WELL PAD AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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### Overview of Siting in WV

- Public opinion nontechnical risk
- Terrain/Environment
- Regulatory
  - Wetlands
  - Streams
  - Endangered Species
- Ownership



#### Nontechnical risk

- Greater than risk associated with drilling and completion
- Must be cognizant of risk before siting
- Best companies understand concerns and work with local communities



#### **Terrain**

- Narrow ridges
- Steep slopes
- Soil prone to slipping
- Surface water
- Coal development



#### Regulatory

- Wetlands must limit encroachment
- Can not impound streams, discharge into streams, fill or discharge into wetlands
- Jurisdiction of WV DEP and Federal EPA
- Must also follow erosion and sediment control regulations



The West Virginia-based Marcellus Shale pure-play company admitted that it dumped pollutants into waterways in Marshall County. It agreed to a plea agreement calling for a \$600,000 fine, at \$200,000 for each conviction, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia, which issued a press release after the deal was reached.

For Drilling Fluid Migration, Other Violations

Pennsylvania DEP Again Fines Sunoco For Mariner East Violations

Those penalties, and the \$3 million in fines issued earlier this month, come on top of what federal regulators said will likely cost more than \$13 million to complete restoration and mitigation work required under a consent order the company reached with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Justice and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (see *Shale Daily*, Sept. 3).

#### Regulatory - spacing

- 30.5 meters to stream, natural or artificial lake, or wetland
- 91.4 meters to trout stream
- 304.8 meters from public water intake/supply
- 76.2 meters from water well
- 190.5 meters from pad to occupied dwelling or agricultural building



#### Endangered Species - Indiana Bat

- One factor of decline
  - loss of summer roosting
- Regulations on clearing
  - April through Nov
  - Nov through Mar
- Different regulations
   for each



#### Indiana Bat

- Summer clearing
  - Hire environmental firm
  - Develop/conduct mist net plan
  - Report to USFWS
  - If you catch bat must use transmitter to determine if roosting location near
  - 2.5 mile buffer around if roost tree found, 5 mile if no roost tree found
  - No removal of trees in buffer during summer

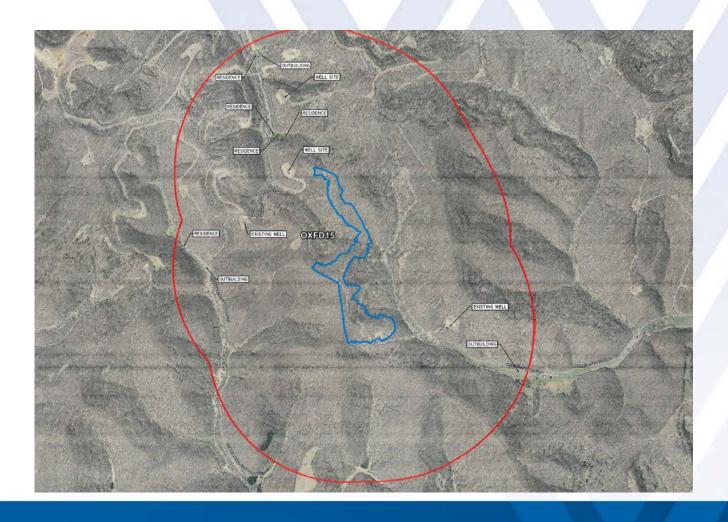
- Winter clearing
  - Consult with USFWS
  - Locate any roosting trees
  - Submit report
  - Clear trees
  - Create artificial habitat

#### Other Regulatory

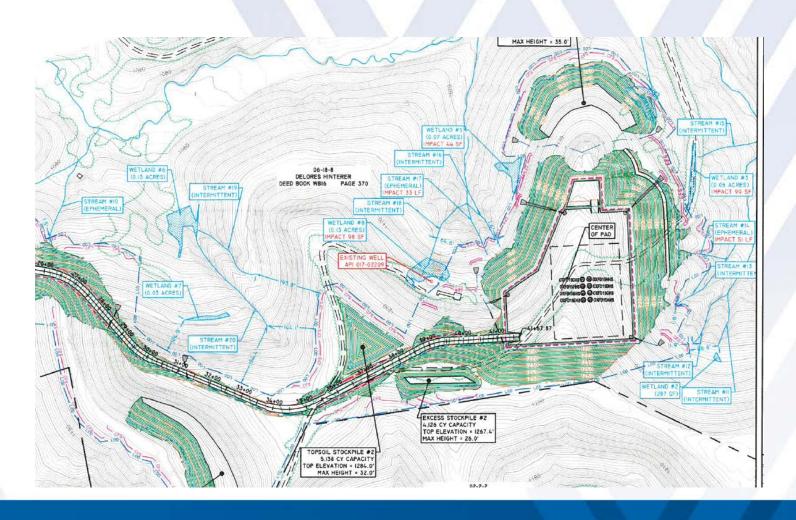
- Cultural Sites
- Coal
- Utilities
- Floodplain
- Trout stream
- Warm water stream
- Historic sites
- WVDEP 401 permit



# **Example Site Location**



### 11 streams, 6 wetlands



#### Landscape changes



- Analyzed >400 unconventional wells drilled between 2009-2012
- At each site buffered well location by 15ha
- Within 15ha buffer, quantified total disturbed area
- Also quantified pad, water impound, road, and pipeline

# Comparison – pre/post imagery





# Comparison – Pre/Post imagery





# Results II & III - Landscape changes



- Total of 421 unconventional wells were analyzed
- On average total disturbed area was
   3.5 ha (8.8 acres)

#### Results - Overall disturbance



Statistic	Disturbance (acres)	Disturbance (hectares)	Percent Forest
Avg.	8.8	3.6	43%
Min	1.2	0.49	0%
Max	25.2	10.2	100%
StDev	4.1	1.7	37.7%

- Higher than PA (Drohan et al. 2012) in size(2.7 hectares)
- Less forest disturbance than in PA
   (54% as opposed to 43% in this study)

# Results – Pads, Pipelines, water, Roads



Statistic	Well Pad	Pipeline	Pond	Road
Avg.	0.93	0.49	0.38	0.24
Min	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.02
Max	4.90	1.86	2.11	0.97
StDev	0.49	0.36	0.28	0.16

#### Resource Removals

County	Total Private Acres	Total Forest Acres	Total Acres	Percent Forest	Board Feet /Acre	Total Tons/Acre
Marshall	179,399	179,399	195,475	92%	7071	53.3
Doddridge	175,638	175,638	204,620	86%	9666	75.8
Wetzel	187,716	199,528	229,158	87%	6991	60.7
Harrison	158,303	164,387	266,246	62%	6801	64.6
AVERAGE	175,264	179,738	223,875	82%	7632	64

Total removals: 2421 total forested acres impacted: >150,000 tons of biomass

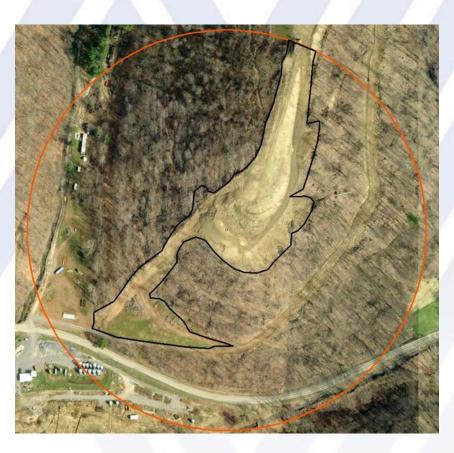
\$7.2 million in stumpage

Total removals: 979 total forested hectares impacted: >130,000 metric tons of biomass

\$7.2 million in stumpage

# Disturbance by well type (Ha)

Well Type	Average Disturbance	Min Disturbance	Max Disturbance
Conventional	1.0	0.04	4.0
Unconventional	3.6	0.5	10.2



#### Conventional Versus Unconventional

Well	MMCF/	MMCF/	MMCF/m/
Type	month	Acre	Acre
C	896.9	12,055	0.8
UC	64,456	226,259	31.8
Change		<b>↑18</b> x	↑36x

#### Conclusions



- Many requirement must be met before D&C
- Shale related development increased substantially in WV over past 5 years
- Disturbs on average 3.6 ha per well PAD
- Individually, unconventional wells disturb more surface, however multiple wells on single pads decreases surface acreage required

# Heading

- Bullets
  - State of West Virginia

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