



Testimony of the Marcellus Shale Coalition
Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
June 29, 2010

Good morning Chairman Baker and distinguished members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. My name is David Spigelmyer, Vice President of Government Relations for Chesapeake Energy and Marcellus Shale Coalition (MSC) Vice Chairman. With me today is Ralph Tijerina, Director of Health, Safety, Security, and Environment for Range Resources Appalachia L.L.C. Mr. Tijerina is the Chair the Joint Safety Committee for the MSC and the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA).

The MSC is indeed committed to safe operations and we applaud the efforts of your committee to heighten the awareness of preparing for emergencies and to foster cooperative training between industry and the first responder community. As the MSC testified just a little over a week ago to another important Senate committee, safety and environmental protection are paramount to everything we do here in the Commonwealth and we are committed to meeting world class standards here in Pennsylvania. As you know, this industry is not new to Pennsylvania as we have drilled as many as 4,000 conventional wells annually in the Commonwealth and have been doing so for in excess of 150 years. However, with the development of the Marcellus Shale, we are working to expand training programs with emergency management officials in regions that we have not historically operated. Ralph Tijerina is with me today and he can share with you some of the joint training programs that we are working to expand across Pennsylvania through the Marcellus Shale Coalition.

The Safety Committee, which Mr. Tijerina Chairs, was formed within PIOGA (IOGA at the time) at the end of 2008. With the development of the Marcellus Shale industry and

our new Coalition, a joint MSC/ PIOGA Safety Committee was formed to address the training needs of communities across the Commonwealth.

During the formation of the joint Safety Committee, training disciplines were defined and subcommittees formed. Those subcommittees include: Construction, Drilling, Completions (includes well preparation, hydraulic fracturing and flowback), Production, Midstream, and Crisis Management. Each subcommittee is assigned a chair to oversee the group and develop recommended best management practices. These practices will be reviewed and approved for use by the membership of the organizations.

Members of the Safety Committee are comprised of staff from local operators, service companies, consultants, and representatives from various governmental agencies such as OSHA, DEP and Public Safety.

Training for first responders and other public officials has historically been provided by individual operators upon request. However, the industry is also working to proactively develop regional training initiatives in cooperation with PEMA and regional emergency management officials. Our industry has reached out to different organizations such as CCAP to provide a better understanding of our operations and industry related activities.

One primary example of our training programs relates to an industry collaborative with the Lycoming County Gas Exploration Task Force. The Task Force contacted IOGA at the end of 2008 with a request for industry to provide an education forum on our safety practices and emergency response procedures in an effort to better understand emergency response needs should a situation occur. More than 50 representatives from Lycoming County's first responder community attended the initial briefing conducted by the natural gas industry. Attendees at this briefing included; firefighters, emergency management officials, law enforcement and the education community. Since then, numerous public awareness and safety presentations have been provided to first responders in the North

Central, Southwest and Northwest Pennsylvania regions. Representatives from PEMA, DEP, State Fire Marshalls and law enforcement have been given orientations on safety procedures in our industry. As a follow up, an emergency response exercise was conducted with numerous agencies in the Lycoming County region in the fall of 2009. It included more than 80 participants from the first responder community, local agencies and representatives from area hospitals. Gap analyses were developed to determine where additional resources should be applied to prepare first responders for well emergencies. Understanding well and pipeline operations was the basis of the training, as well as setting expectations for first responders when arriving on the scene of a working incident.

Numerous first responder groups from various parts of the Marcellus shale development areas have approached the Safety Committee requesting training and education seminars. The Committee has recently decided that the training can be best organized in coordination with the State Fire Commissioner's Office since they manage the Fire Academy. This decision will enable us to best provide training to first responders utilizing adjunct trainers who work cooperatively with the Fire Commissioner.

Several meetings have been held in the second quarter between industry representatives, the State Fire Commissioner's Office and other agencies to set goals, develop training curriculum, and to address the format for training. An important part of these discussions was to set appropriate expectations for first responders arriving at the scene of an emergency situation. While first responders may need to manage a fire or other emergency at an unmanned facility, such as a producing natural gas well, all parties agree that emergencies at a drilling or well completion site must be managed by the operator. First responders may become acquainted with some well site equipment but cannot be expected to understand the operation and complexity of these instruments. Penn College of Technology in Williamsport has been a part of the discussion to provide both

educational needs for workers in the industry and establish a fire fighting school for well site activities.

Responding to medical emergencies is another area in which responders need orientation training so they know what to expect upon arrival. The first of such efforts was a Crush Injury Seminar, conducted in cooperation with the medical community in Lycoming County.

Once again, the industry is reaching out to conduct first responder training across the Commonwealth. Most first responders are volunteers so the scheduling is either in the evenings or conducted on weekends. Safety and emergency response training has been going on for years throughout the Commonwealth. Our goal is to provide the necessary training inside our companies so incidents are rare. However, we will also conduct training externally so that in the event of an incident, first responders may adequately respond.

Thank you.