



February 8, 2011

Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Board
601 Tunkhannock Highway
PO Box 518
Dallas, PA 18612

Dear Zoning Board Officials:

With the advent of natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, all the decisions about locating and operating gas facilities have taken on additional complexity and controversy.

Years ago, the location of a compressor station, such as the one proposed in Dallas Township, might have been a routine matter. Today, some individuals and groups view such a development as a pivotal matter affecting the future of the community.

The decision is clearly in the hands of the board, and it is not our role to intrude in your proper exercise of responsibility.

However, it is our duty to convey the concerns expressed to us by our constituents. The proximity of the site to schools where nearly 3,000 students are educated is a primary point of concern. While there may be a legal right to site a compressor station there, many people believe that doing so is not right. The most convenient or available location from a company perspective may not fit with the broad community view.

General questions are being raised about air quality, noise levels, and other health and quality of life issues. But the greatest concerns conveyed relate to safety issues. Local emergency responders are pointing to the difficulties posed by a single access road to the campus. There is also a contention that the application on file lacks an evacuation plan.