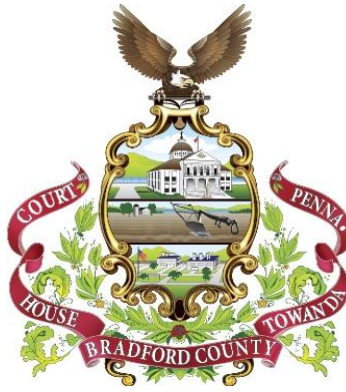


Mark W. Smith, Chairman
John Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Doug McLinko, Commissioner

Gayle Kershner, Chief Clerk
Jonathan Foster, Solicitor



Bradford County Commissioners Office

1/16/09

For Immediate Release
Clean and Green Tax Penalty
Payment Proposal

Mark Smith, Chairman of the Bradford County Commissioners announces a proposal to help Clean and Green landowners with payment.

As many are aware some landowners enrolled in Clean and Green are receiving gas wells which trigger a rollback tax penalty. These rollback penalties can be a significant financial hardship to landowners especially on very large parcels of land. This is even more of an issue for cases in which royalties for landowner's gas production may not be realized immediately. It is understood that there are some landowners in the Clean and Green program that do not have a clause in their lease obligating the gas company to pay the rollback.

The long-standing time frame for the rollback taxes was that they were due within 45 days. We understand that unexpectedly having to pay a very significant amount of money on large parcels of land within 45 days can be a severe hardship and impossible for some landowners.

Therefore at the request of many Clean and Green landowners to hurry the efforts in alleviate the situation a proposal has been reached which will be viable until the state legislature amends the Clean and Green law to take the complications of natural gas drilling into consideration. Over the last few months we have struggled to come up with a solution that is both legally viable and absolutely fair to all taxpayers and all Clean and Green landowners.

The proposal is as follows;

1. All Bradford County taxpayers enrolled in Clean and Green will be given 60 days to pay their taxes after removal from the Clean and Green program. This is an extension of the current 45 days.
2. If a landowner is beyond the 60 days they are placed in tax claim status.
3. Once placed in tax claim status any landowner can ask to be placed in what is known as a "Stay of Sale." This can be applied for through the Tax Claim Bureau in the Bradford County Treasurer's Office.
4. A "Stay of Sale" will allow landowners to enter into a payment agreement with the county.
5. The payment schedule can be implemented in 4 payments with interest.
6. A "Stay of Sale" allows any landowner facing financial challenges a payment plan and a 1 year extension beyond normal tax claim status.

The only part of this proposal that requires a vote by the Commissioners is the extension from 45 to 60 days which can be approved at our next Commissioners' meeting. The rest of the proposal is available by the Bradford County Tax Claim Director as of right now.

I would like to thank the Tax Claim Director and the Tax Claim Solicitor for their efforts in exploring all the options and presenting a fair approach to the situation. They have gone above and beyond to address this issue in a time frame which was promised to landowners at a recent Commissioners' meeting. If there are any questions regarding the "Stay of Sale" please feel free to contact the Bradford County Tax Claim Bureau at 570-265-1700.