

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



Gayle Kershner, Chief Clerk
Jonathan Foster, Solicitor

Bradford County Commissioners Office

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Bradford County Commissioner Mark W. Smith addressed the Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission in Harrisburg on Wednesday.

Since no officials from the most drilled in county in the state are part of the commission's official process, Bradford County Commissioner Smith waited in line to speak during the public comment section of the commission's proceedings at the end of the day.

During his brief remarks Smith took issue with the fact that Bradford County is not being asked to be participate on the commission or in its testimony which is intended as a basis for the Governor Corbett's policies on natural gas development.

Commissioner Smith also spoke about two instances discussed earlier in the proceedings by Marcellus Shale Commission members. One member of the commission commented that counties are not assigning 911 addresses for gas well sites. In his comments Smith took issue with the statement saying, "if the commission would have asked Bradford County you would have learned that we do assign 911 addresses to each well site and that we constantly work with the natural gas companies to ensure each site has a consistent 911 sign for each well site."

Smith also took issue with another point a commission member made about the lack of pipeline mapping saying again, "If you would have consulted Bradford County you would know that we track and map this development in detail which includes gas wells, water withdrawal sites, and pipelines."

Later Smith commented, "Our planning department has been on the front end of this development with mapping. We not only map it and track it, we offer it to the public on our county website. The commission seemed oblivious to this information that is readily available on the Internet. The lack of due diligence to include northern tier counties is very unfortunate. They are talking about things that Bradford County has been doing for years as if it were something new. I found it very disappointing."

Smith ended his public comment by saying that, “The residents of Bradford County want to know we have a voice in this process and as a Bradford County Commissioner I am demanding we have that voice.”

Lt. Governor Jim Cawley responded to Commissioner Smith’s criticism by saying, “Everyone is welcome to submit written testimony.”

Afterwards Smith said he was, “furious with the Lt. Governor’s response that Bradford County could only submit written testimony. No one from Bradford County or any other county experiencing heavy drilling across the northern tier has been asked to be an official part of the commission, even though most of the action in drilling over the last few years has occurred right here in our backyard. I find it deeply disturbing. I think every resident of Bradford County and the northern tier should be outraged that we are not part of this process”.

“There are successes and failures to this development and many of each are currently happening here, in our county. We should have a voice; we should be a part of this process. Our communities and our county should count,” he said.