Guidelines for Administering Oil and Gas Activities on State Forest Lands


Natural Gas Advisory Committee

October 24, 2016

www.dcnr.pa.gov
Previous versions in 2010, 2011 and 2013

Concept rooted in the 2002 Trenton-Black River lease sale
Objective

“...to establish and communicate a set of “guidelines” and Best Management Practices (BMP’s) that provide consistent, reasonable and appropriate direction for managing oil and gas activity on state forest lands in accordance with the Bureau’s mission.”
Mission Statement

“…to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth’s forests and to conserve native wild plants.”
Mission Statement

Bureau of Forestry will accomplish its mission by …

• Managing state forests under sound ecosystem management
• Retaining their wild character
• Maintaining biological diversity
• While providing …
  – pure water
  – opportunities for low-density recreation
  – habitats for forest plants and animals
  – sustained yields of quality timber
  – environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources.
The Need for Revision

Industry

Bureau

Regulations
Input

• Welcome and receptive to public comment
• Comment is collected, considered and incorporated as appropriate in subsequent revisions
• Most significant component = “lessons learned”
Adaptive Management

‘Lessons learned’ are actively applied to refine, improve and direct our management
Process

Brainstorming + Rough Draft + Vetting = Final Draft
Goals

- Simplify
- Clarify
- Improve technical accuracy
- Integrate lessons learned
- Reinforce concepts with photos
Substantive Changes

Eliminated 3 appendices
Major sections edits
  – Recreation and Public Safety
  – Roads
  – Pipelines
  – Non-Native Invasive Plants
  – Site Rehabilitation
Recreation and Public Safety

- Aesthetics and wild character
- Recreational opportunities and experiences
- Security & traffic cameras, lighting
- PPE
Roads

- Planning & siting
- Avoiding user conflicts
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Rehabilitation
Pipelines

• New subsections
  – Siting
    Comprehensive & Strategic
  – Materials
  – Stream crossings
  – Vegetation mgmt.
  – Reclamation
Non-Native Invasive Plants

- New approach
  - ROW’s
  - Leases and SUAs
- Prioritized species
- Focus on long term rehabilitation
Site Rehabilitation

- Clarified definitions and concepts
  - Revegetation
  - Reclamation
  Interim
  Final
  - Restoration

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Questions