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New Marcellus Development Boom Will Triple Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Pennsylvania's Natural Gas Sector

Report forecasts thousands of new natural gas wells

Bristol, PA – Natural gas production on Pennsylvania's vast black shale deposit known as the Marcellus Shale will nearly double by 2030 to meet growing demand, tripling Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas sector relative to 2012 levels, according to a report published today by Delaware Riverkeeper Network. The increase in greenhouse gas emissions will remain steady through 2045 with continued shale gas development, projects the report, "Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Projected Future Marcellus Development."

Broad scientific evidence has demonstrated that the emission of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide is accelerating the warming of the Earth's climate. The report, produced by the nonprofit research institute PSE Healthy Energy, measures projected greenhouse gas emissions from the development of Marcellus shale gas reserves in Pennsylvania by calculating the total life-cycle emissions — accounting for drilling as well as factors such as infrastructure construction and fuel transport. Researchers based production projections on well quality data and documented levels of demand.

To meet projected demand, 1,600 to 2,000 new shale gas wells will need to be constructed each year, researchers say — nearly doubling Marcellus production by 2030 over 2014 levels. As these new wells come on line, climate-impacting emissions from the sector — primarily methane — will increase 50% to 87% over 2014 levels. These emissions are at least three times that of Pennsylvania's natural gas emissions in 2012, the baseline year for recently proposed federal greenhouse gas reduction measures. Researchers note that the new projected development would constitute a second drilling boom for Pennsylvania.

"The build-out of Marcellus Shale gas in Pennsylvania will release methane at an alarming rate," said Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. "Recent federal climate goals set

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reductions of greenhouse gas emissions for Pennsylvania at 23% by 2030. Instead of ratcheting back, Pennsylvania will be tripling its greenhouse gas releases, making the Commonwealth a huge contributor to the climate crisis,” van Rossum said.

“Pennsylvania can either grow with renewable and sustainable energy, meeting its energy needs without adding to the climate burden of greenhouse gases – a completely reachable goal - or it will go down in history as part of the climate crisis by continuing on the downward spiral of polluting fossil fuels. It is imperative that state decisionmakers are fully aware of the price we will pay if the Marcellus shale is allowed to build out,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

For a copy of the report go to: <http://bit.ly/2jnt2Jq>

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a nonprofit organization working throughout the four states that comprise the Delaware Watershed — Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York — using actions, regulations, legislation, policies and programs to protect and restore the watershed.

Physicians, Scientists and Engineers (PSE) for Healthy Energy is nonprofit research institute dedicated to supplying evidence-based scientific and technical information on the public health, environmental and climate dimensions of energy production and use.

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