

M.E. JOHN SEMINAR SERIES

DATE: Friday,
November 13, 2009

TIME: 3:00-4:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
215 Armsby

November 27:
No seminar

December 4:
Donald A. Brown
Environmental Ethics,
Science, and Law,
PSU

December 7:
Dr. Agnes Richroch
Dept. Life Sciences
and Health,
AgroParisTech

Dec. 17 or 18:
Tassos Haniotis,
European
Commission/EU



Speakers:

Joann Kowalski, Ext. Ed., PSU
Jon Laughner, Co. Ext. Dir., PSU
Jim Ladlee, Co. Ext. Dir., PSU
Tim Kelsey, Prof. of Ag. Econ. & Penn
State Coop. Ext. State Prog. Leader for
Econ. & Comm. Dev.

Development of Natural Gas in the Marcellus Shale: A Research Agenda

The Marcellus Shale is a geological deposit containing vast amounts of natural gas. This formation lies under large portions of Pennsylvania, southern New York, West Virginia, and small portions of Ohio and Maryland. Recent technological advances have made extracting natural gas from this deposit cost effective, and the proximity to major metropolitan markets in the Northeastern US has made this 'play' highly attractive to energy companies. Many areas of rural Pennsylvania have begun to experience rapid population and business growth and significant personal income increases, as well as conflicts over environmental problems, impacts on drinking water, and community conflicts about leasing, local finances, and community change. All of these early signs of social, economic, political, and cultural change raise important questions about how communities can not only react to these changes but also prepare for them in advance. These applied research questions need to be articulated and answered quickly, so that those living and working in the communities within the Marcellus Shale, as well as those leaders with regional and statewide responsibilities, have the knowledge they need to make informed choices about their futures.

This seminar will provide background information about the Marcellus Shale and discuss questions that have arisen already within the region as well as questions that have arisen in other parts of the country experiencing rapid development of natural gas resources. A portion of the seminar time will be spent discussing important social science research questions in an effort to engage university researchers in the interesting and needed research that will inform education and outreach for Marcellus Shale communities.