



March 11, 2010

Ms. Paula Schmitt
DRBC Commission Secretary
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

2010 MAR 18 P 2:59
DRBC COMMISSION
DELAWARE RIVER

Re: Stone Energy Natural Gas Applications, Docket D-2009-13-1 and D-2009-18-1

Dear Ms. Schmitt:

The Board of Directors of the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) desires to make its position clear on the future of the gas development industry in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

We believe natural gas exploration and recovery offer a major opportunity for economic development that Wayne County desperately needs. Development of this resource can also provide a source of capital and income to maintain the County's valuable open space uses. It can, too, help address critical energy and national security needs by making the U.S. less dependent on foreign oil.

Natural gas development contributes in a major way to economic development for Wayne County and surrounding areas. Wayne County is a relatively low income area (per capita income of more than 20% below U.S. average) and has lost some 1,300 jobs over the last four years as major manufacturers have left the area. The County is also aging and has been losing its young people as they have left the area for better opportunities. Holding onto farms and open spaces that sustain the tourism industry has been increasingly difficult in recent years as farm incomes have suffered and property taxes have risen. Creating new economic opportunities is, therefore, imperative.

The future economic benefits are potentially huge. Wayne County's Marcellus Shale areas represent a minimum of 240,000 acres which, at a density of one well per 160 acres, can eventually accommodate 1,500 gas wells. These wells will produce an estimated \$5.25 billion of new investment in Wayne County and directly generate an average of 600 jobs per year before considering lease and royalty income to landowners or the spin off effects. This industry is expected to annually produce a total of \$1.5 billion of new economic activity for Wayne County, more than doubling personal




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income, with all the attendant benefits for community institutions, health, open space preservation, energy availability and security.

A natural gas taskforce has been formed in Wayne County to plan ahead for the development of the industry and supports regulation of this activity by the Department of Environmental Protection. The taskforce stands committed to working towards a responsible natural gas industry that grows in Wayne County and that the exploration and recovery of the resources is done in a responsible manner. The County's quality of life and tourism industry depend on it. It is equally important that the Delaware River Basin Commission establish a responsible and balanced approach to regulating the water use connected with natural gas drilling.

It is time to end the delays. It must be recognized there are some who merely see Wayne County as a playground and will never support any development, no matter how responsible. They cannot drive policy for those who live here, have protected the environment everyone loves, and desire to make a decent living. It is time to give the real property stakeholders their due and encourage development of these natural gas resources for the good of Wayne County, the Commonwealth, and our nation.

Sincerely,



James LaBar
President