

July 26, 2012

36 New Shale Drilling Permits Issued in June

The booming industry of Ohio shale development does not seem to be showing any signs of slowing down based on the most recent record of issued permits by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

In June, the department issued 36 permits to drill horizontal wells in the Utica and Point Pleasant Shale formations. Compare that to 20 horizontal drilling permits issued by the department in May.

Carroll County was the most sought-after area in June with 11 permits, followed by 7 permits issued to drill in Columbiana County and 5 permits in Harrison County. The rest of the counties where new drilling permits were issued include the following:

- Noble County, 4 permits
- Guernsey County, 3 permits
- Jefferson County, 2 permits
- Mahoning County, 2 permits
- Belmont County, 1 permit
- Wayne County, 1 permit

Horizontal drilling is a process used in order to extract natural gas from shale formations, also known as "plays." Once a horizontal well is in place, companies use hydraulic fracturing, commonly referred to as fracking, in order to crack the shale and release the gas.

Environmental groups have raised concerns over the process, which includes the disposal of the fracking fluid after its use in the well. Some state leaders, including Gov. John Kasich, have argued that the process is safe as long as the proper regulations are in place.

Last month, Kasich signed SB315 (Jones) into law. The bill included new rules for well construction and chemical disclosure for fracking fluid. (See *The Hannah Report*, 6/11/12.)

Those in support of horizontal drilling and fracking in Ohio have claimed that many companies would come to the state to develop shale gas, creating thousands of jobs along the way.

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