

**Revision to**

**Allegheny County Health Department  
Rules and Regulations  
Article XXI, Air Pollution Control**

**Addition of new**

**Part E, Subpart 11, Shale Drilling - §2105.110, Notification System for  
Unconventional Wells**

**And**

**Related additions to §2101.20, Definitions**

## PART E - SOURCE EMISSION AND OPERATING STANDARDS

The following all-new Subpart and Section is to be added to Article XXI:

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### *Subpart 11 – Shale Drilling*

#### **§2105.110 Notification System for Unconventional Wells**

*{Section added December 27, 2013, effective January 7, 2014}*

- a. **Applicability.** This section applies to any natural gas drilling site characterized as an unconventional well, as defined in this Article, which utilizes hydraulic fracturing.
- b. **Unconventional Well Activity Notification.**
  1. No person shall conduct, or allow to be conducted, the construction, installation, or operation of any unconventional well without first submitting to the Department written advance notice. Written notice, with the intended start, date shall be submitted prior to each of the following activities:
    - A. Initial well site construction, including but not limited to: the creation of roads, the construction of impoundment ponds, the building of structures, and the installation of drilling and production equipment.
    - B. Drilling, where a well bore of any depth is drilled into, through, or below the surface of the earth.
    - C. Hydraulic fracturing, as defined in this Article.
    - D. Flaring or venting during well completion, except in emergency situations where immediate flaring is necessary for the safety of the site.
  2. The Department shall be notified of the intended start date for any of the activities listed at Paragraph b.1 no less than 24 hours prior. Should a change in date for any covered activity be necessary, the owner or operator shall notify ACHD of the revised date no less than 24 hours prior to the actual date.
- c. **Reporting of Breakdowns.** In the event that any air pollution control equipment, process equipment, or other source of air contaminants breaks down in such manner as to have a substantial likelihood of causing the emission of air contaminants in violation of this Article, or of causing the emission into the open air of potentially toxic or hazardous materials, the person responsible for such equipment or source shall immediately, but in no event later than 2 hours after the commencement of the breakdown, notify the Department of such breakdown. Oral reporting of such breakdown shall follow Article XXI §2108.01.c.2 requirements.
- d. **Violations.** Conducting any of the activities described in Paragraph b.1. above without first submitting notification to the Department as required before the actual start date of the intended activity, or the failure to report breakdowns as required in Subsection c, shall be a violation of this Article giving rise to the remedies provided by §2109.02 of this Article.

(See next page for new definitions.)

**The following terms will be added to Article XXI, §2101.20, Definitions:**

**“Unconventional formation”** means a geological shale formation existing below the base of the Elk Sandstone or its geologic equivalent stratigraphic interval where natural gas generally cannot be produced at economic flow rates or in economic volumes except by vertical or horizontal well bores stimulated by hydraulic fracture treatments or by using multilateral well bores or other techniques to expose more of the formation to the well bore.

**“Unconventional gas well”** means a bore hole drilled or being drilled for the purpose of or to be used for the production of natural gas from an unconventional formation.

**“Hydraulic fracturing”** means a well stimulation technique which consists of pumping water, chemicals, and a propping agent, such as sand, or other fluids and materials down the wellbore under high pressure to create and maintain induced fractures in the hydrocarbon-bearing rock of the target geologic formation.