
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2422 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, MUNDY, FARINA,
THOMAS, McNEILL, BROWNLEE AND COHEN, JULY 29, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JULY 29, 2014

AN ACT

1 Requiring the decommissioning of abandoned wells located on
2 property leased for the purpose of producing oil or natural
3 gas.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Definitions.

7 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
8 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
9 context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 "Abandoned well." A water well that is no longer equipped in
11 such a manner as to be able to draw groundwater. The term
12 includes a water well where the pump, piping or electrical
13 components have been disconnected or removed or when its use on
14 a regular or prescribed basis has been discontinued. The term
15 does not include a water well that is not currently used, but is
16 equipped or otherwise properly maintained in such a manner as to
17 be able to draw groundwater as an alternative, backup or
18 supplemental water source.

1 "AWWA A100-06" The American Water Works Association's
2 standard related to water wells.

3 "Decommissioning." The process of properly filling and
4 sealing an abandoned well.

5 "Drilling." An act necessary to the construction of a water
6 well, including, but not limited to, drilling, boring, coring,
7 washing, jetting and driving.

8 "Groundwater." Water beneath the surface of the ground
9 within a zone of saturation, whether or not flowing through
10 known and definite channels or percolating through underground
11 geologic formations and regardless of whether the result of
12 natural or artificial recharge. The term includes water
13 contained in an aquifer, artesian and nonartesian basin,
14 underground watercourse and any other body of water below the
15 surface of the earth.

16 Section 2. Decommissioning.

17 All abandoned wells located on property leased for the
18 purpose of producing oil or natural gas must be decommissioned
19 prior to the drilling of an oil or natural gas well. The
20 decommissioning of the abandoned wells must meet or exceed the
21 decommissioning requirements under AWWA A100-06. The operator of
22 the proposed oil or natural gas well shall be responsible for
23 the decommissioning of the abandoned wells.

24 Section 3. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 60 days.