
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2304 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY FRITZ, WHEELAND, JAMES, DOWLING, BENNINGHOFF AND
ZIMMERMAN, APRIL 30, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
APRIL 30, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in development, further providing for well permits.

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

5 Section 1. Section 3211(i) of Title 58 of the Pennsylvania
6 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
7 adding subsections to read:

8 § 3211. Well permits.

9 * * *

10 (a.1) Multi-well pad permit.--An unconventional well
11 operator may apply to the department for a multi-well pad permit
12 under subsections (b), (c) and (e) for the development of oil or
13 natural gas. A person who receives a multi-well pad permit under
14 this subsection shall not be required to obtain a separate well
15 permit under subsection (a) for any unconventional wells drilled
16 or altered within the permitted area that are spud prior to the
17 expiration of the permit. A copy of the permit shall be kept at

1 the well site during preparation and construction of the well
2 site or access road during drilling or alteration of the well.

3 The following apply:

4 (1) For any well drilled under a permit issued under
5 this subsection, the area of review survey required by the
6 department identifying any wells which penetrate within 1,500
7 feet of planned hydraulic fracturing perforations shall be
8 submitted concurrent with the well record required under
9 section 3222(b)(2) (relating to well reporting requirements).

10 (2) Each application for a permit shall be accompanied
11 by a permit fee of \$2,000.

12 (3) An operator shall pay a fee for each well spud under
13 authorization of a permit issued under this subsection. The
14 fee shall be equal to the fee charged by the department under
15 subsection (d).

16 (4) A permit issued under this subsection shall expire
17 five years after issuance unless operations for drilling a
18 well under the permit are commenced within the period and are
19 pursued with due diligence or unless the permit is renewed in
20 accordance with regulations of the department.

21 * * *

22 (e.2) Well deviation.--The department shall not require a
23 permittee to repermit a well unless the surface hole location of
24 the well deviates by more than 50 feet from the original
25 proposed surface hole location contained on the plat that
26 accompanies the well permit application. Deviation of the final
27 subterranean well bore path from the proposed subterranean well
28 bore path, if indicated, on the plat that accompanies the well
29 permit application due to geologic, safety, environmental
30 protection, optimal resource extraction or other reasonable

1 consideration shall not constitute a violation.

2 * * *

3 (i) Expiration.--

4 (1) Well permits issued for drilling wells under this
5 chapter shall expire one year after issuance unless
6 operations for drilling the well are commenced within the
7 period and pursued with due diligence or unless the permit is
8 renewed in accordance with regulations of the department. If
9 drilling is commenced during the one-year period, the well
10 permit shall remain in force until the well is plugged in
11 accordance with section 3220 (relating to plugging
12 requirements) or the permit is revoked. A drilling permit
13 issued prior to April 18, 1985, for a well which is an
14 operating well on April 18, 1985, shall remain in force as a
15 well permit until the well is plugged in accordance with
16 section 3220.

17 (2) The department may establish, by regulation, a
18 multi-year well permit. The well permit application fee
19 charged by the department shall be prorated according to the
20 duration of the multi-year well permit.

21 * * *

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.