
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 479 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SMITH, FERLO, SCHWANK, FONTANA AND COSTA,
OCTOBER 15, 2014

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring it to be in the interest of the citizens of this
2 Commonwealth for the Department of Environmental Protection
3 to make full use of available technology to preserve clean
4 drinking water, guarantee public safety and minimize
5 environmental impacts associated with Pennsylvania's
6 production of oil and natural gas.

7 WHEREAS, Oil and gas exploration and production activities
8 involve conventional and unconventional drilling through various
9 subsurface layers of shale and rock to produce oil and natural
10 gas; and

11 WHEREAS, The drilling industry production and flowback water,
12 as well as other drilling-related infrastructure and sources,
13 are potentially impacted with naturally occurring radioactive
14 material (NORM) and technologically enhanced naturally occurring
15 radioactive material (TENORM); and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection describes
17 TENORM as material that "consists of naturally occurring
18 radioactive material whose radionuclide concentrations have been
19 increased above levels encountered in the natural state by human
20 activities"; and

1 WHEREAS, Equipment is available to expedite sampling and
2 analysis processes with means for accurate onsite sample
3 collection and material testing for radiation that satisfies
4 Federal and State regulations; and

5 WHEREAS, Using this technology for sampling and testing
6 purposes may reduce the Department of Environmental Protection's
7 transportation, collection, processing, preservation, analysis
8 and identification responsibilities, as well as more efficiently
9 utilize department staff resources; and

10 WHEREAS, This technology is also commercially available to
11 the oil and natural gas industry and its use allows for more
12 efficient internal safety compliance, ensuring safe working
13 conditions for those laborers in the hydraulic fracturing and
14 hauling process; and

15 WHEREAS, This equipment has been implemented in the fields of
16 homeland security, nuclear power and landfill monitoring;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate declare it to be in the interest of
19 the citizens of this Commonwealth for the Department of
20 Environmental Protection to make full use of available
21 technology to preserve clean drinking water, guarantee public
22 safety and minimize environmental impacts associated with
23 Pennsylvania's production of oil and natural gas.