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1/18/2011 3:32 AM

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## Mt. Pleasant Twp. considering new zoning amenc

By **Christie Campbell**, Staff writer, [chriscam@observer-reporter.com](mailto:chriscam@observer-reporter.com)

*This article has been read 2988 times.*

Possible environmental damage from drilling and gas processing activity is addressed in a new oil amendment under consideration for Mt. Pleasant Township.

The amendment requires operators to purchase environmental pollution liability coverage in case vapor or fumes, provide copies of water testing of private wells and springs and prohibits any brin mixture with water be used for dust abatement on roads.

A citizens advisory committee helped prepare the amendment, and Barry Johnston, chairman of th board, noted participants approached their task with a focus on protecting the environment.

This new zoning amendment will be presented during a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in th Supervisors will meet Jan. 26 to consider its adoption.

The zoning amendment addresses operations such as compressing or gas processing stations, pipelines and wells. There are compressing stations operating in the township, and the first horizontal well into the Marcellus Shale was drilled there.

Among proposed changes to gas compressing and processing stations, in addition to regulations governing building and grading permits, state and federal compliance, are:

- Setbacks of a minimum of 2,000 feet from any school:
- Where possible, compressors and other power driving equipment with sparkless electric motors as alternatives to internal combustion engines;

- Eight-foot high fences around such facilities, and noise generating equipment fully enclosed;
- Environmental liability insurance of \$5 million with an annual aggregate of at least \$15 million be provided for as long as the facility is in operation;
- Video documentation of proposed truck routes.

For gas or oil wells:

- Temporary screening panels erected for noise abatement around the entire drilling site;
  - Brine water or any hydrocarbon in water mixture cannot be used for dust abatement;
  - Permitted operating times between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday;
  - Fencing installed around water impoundment and a 30-day notice given when transitioning from wastewater impoundment;
  - Water flow tests of the gallon per minute flow rate of water wells or spring, as well as quality test: 1,000 feet of a proposed oil or gas well at the time of registration submitted to the township. The provide a list - which may be amended - of the possible contaminants that each water quality test
- The citizens advisory board began working on the ordinance in late 2009 by reviewing similar regulations in municipalities as well as those in other states where gas drilling activity has taken place.
- A draft was presented to supervisors last February. Although that draft called for the activity in or manufacturing zones, the latest draft permits the activity throughout the township, though in some conditional use or special exception rather than a permitted use.

Johnston said he was curious to see what the public reaction would be.

"I would think they would look at it in a positive light, but you never know," he said.

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**This sounds good** : 1/18/2011

It's a lot better than the mess we deal with in West Bethlehem and Deemston!

Tired of the drillers and their messes

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**New zoning admendment-Mt. Pleasant Township** : 1/18/2011

Good work by the zoning hearing board. The oil and gas industry will provide good jobs for the are, but their work and balanced by effective governmental control to protect the environment and the people. Be leary of the work of the nev bought by the gas industry.

Bob Slack

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**Looks like the drillers...** : 1/18/2011

Will be coming to neighboring Smith Twp and get Hickory's gas anyway...Welcome!

Keep legislating!

---

**environmental impact of gas and drilling** : 1/18/2011

there must be some thinking people in Mt. Pleasant Township. That is, they can think beyond the dollars offered by th companies and think of the long-term effects of their drilling. Hopefully, there is a middle ground that can be reasonat sides.

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**Greene County** : 1/18/2011

Please protect us from the speeding trucks which loaded might not be able to stop in time to avoid hitting a school bus pedestrian.....Government bodies don't care until after the fact.

Concerned

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**to: concerned** : 1/18/2011

Do you mean all speeding trucks on the road or just the trucks for the gas industry.

Just wondering!

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: 1/18/2011

You can forget about electric compressors, the gas companies want to use electric compressors because gas powered maintian, the problem is that the electric companies can't supply enough power to run them.

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**Cant See The forest For The Trees** : 1/18/2011

Restricting the operating times from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon. thru Sat, will essentially shut down all drilling in Mt. Pleasa is merely couched in terms so that the average layperson does not recognize this. It is interesting that the Observer d the effects of such an ordinance would be on those in the community benefitting directly and indirectly from the drillin who recognize the enormous boon drilling has brought to Mt. Pleasant Township need to attend the meeting and oppo: Please avail yourself of all the information out there as to what the consequences of this ordinance will really be.

---

: 1/18/2011

Amwell won't read this!

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**Operating times are NOT limited.** : 1/19/2011

The operating times mentioned in this article are misleading. Drilling operating time is approved as 24x7 along with w site prep work that is limited to 7 - 7. Get a copy of the ordinance from the twp. and read it for yourself before making is NOT to discourage drilling at all. Merely to keep the industry from running over everyone in their path as had been f 7 years in Mt Pleasant

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**ridiculous** : 1/20/2011

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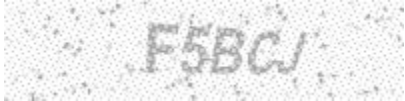
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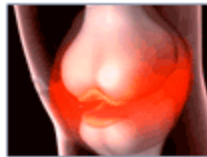
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