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From: Shirley Schmidt [ammasmith@innernet.net]
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Given the long past sordid history of mineral extraction in the Commonwealth, it is imperative that Pennsylvania now implement strong health-based standards for extraction of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale region. This will also prove essential for protection of other aspects of our environment.

Most states exact a fee for mineral extraction. Pennsylvania stands as a notable exception. These fees (or taxes) could be set aside in a trust fund to pay for ground water remediation and could also be used for strong regulatory controls and high inspection costs.

The time to act is now!

George Schmidt