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MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2008

To: Municipalities of Northern Columbia County

From: Columbia County Planning Commission (CCPC)

Subject: Natural Gas Drilling and Exploration: Land Development Planning

Please be advised that the drilling/exploration for and the extraction of natural gas resources in Columbia County will be interpreted as constituting a Land Development as per the definition of the Columbia County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). (Furthermore, the division of land by means of a lease also constitutes a subdivision.) This means that any party wishing to conduct such operations where the County SALDO is in effect must submit to the County a land development plan for consideration for approval prior to commencement of activities. The municipalities currently under the jurisdiction of the County SALDO are as follows:

Beaver Twp, Benton Boro, Benton Twp, Catawissa Boro, Catawissa Twp, Centralia Boro, Conyngham Twp, Fishing Creek Twp, Franklin Twp, Greenwood Twp, Main Twp, Millville Boro, Mt Pleasant Twp, , North Centre Twp, Orange Twp, Orangeville Boro, Pine Twp, Roaring Creek Twp, Stillwater Boro, Sugarloaf Twp.

In light of the fact that agencies of the Commonwealth, such as PA DEP, will be regulating certain aspects of the natural gas drilling/exploration process and issuing relevant permits, the County will consider waivers of certain portions of its' SALDO where verification of related state and/or federal regulations have been met. **HOWEVER**, the preceding statement is not intended to suggest that waivers will be granted from the land development requirements as a whole.

When communicating with the gas companies and their representatives, and prior to issuing permits, we kindly ask that you inform them of the county's land development planning requirement and direct them to contact us. This memo would serve well as a handout notification to such parties.

We may be contacted at the address and numbers provided in the letterhead. Inquiries should be directed to either Joe Price or Rachel Swartwood.

We thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.