

## **State DEP Working to Balance Environmental Challenges, Economic Opportunities of Marcellus Shale**

Drilling the Marcellus Shale promises economic opportunities, but respecting Pennsylvania's environment can maximize the value of those benefits, says J. Scott Roberts, deputy secretary for mineral resources management at the state Department of Environmental Protection.

“Meeting the environmental challenges from water re-use and disposal to site construction controls will allow Pennsylvanians to fully enjoy the economic opportunities of the Marcellus,” Roberts said.

Roberts will explore both the opportunities and challenges presented in drilling the Marcellus Shale in a talk, “The Significance of Marcellus: A Commonwealth Perspective,” on Monday, March 23.

Open to the public, the talk is set for 4 p.m. in 112 Walker Building. The presentation also will be available online at

[http://www.eesi.psu.edu/news\\_events/EarthtalksSpring09.shtml](http://www.eesi.psu.edu/news_events/EarthtalksSpring09.shtml).

As deputy secretary of the Office of Mineral Resources Management, Roberts has responsibility for developing and implementing Pennsylvania's policies and programs for surface and underground coal and industrial mineral mining, oil and gas exploration and production, deep mine safety and the reclamation of abandoned mines and wells.

Prior to his appointment as deputy secretary, Scott served as director of DEP's Bureau of Mining and Reclamation for two years where he developed and revised Pennsylvania's mining regulations, oversaw federal grants, administered operator assistance programs and served as chairman of the board for Pennsylvania's Mine Subsidence Insurance program.

Roberts' talk is part of the 2009 EarthTalks Spring Colloquium Series on “The Marcellus Shale Play: Boon or Burden?” that is sponsored by the Penn State Earth and Environmental Systems Institute (EESI), the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS), the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Environment and Natural Resources Institute, the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment (PSIEE), the EMS Energy Institute and the John A. Dutton e-Education Institute.

All talks are archived and can be viewed at

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