

## Principles for Marcellus Shale Drilling

### *Executive Summary*

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light (PA IPL) believes that decisions about whether and how to drill for natural gas from the Marcellus Shale must be viewed through a moral lens. Human-caused global climate change is a corruption of the goodness of God's creation. Science compels us to move away from the use of fossil fuels swiftly and immediately.

The use of coal in Pennsylvania is dropping as natural gas becomes more abundant. All fossil fuels produce heat-trapping emissions when burned, but (for the same amount of energy) natural gas creates fewer than coal, which is advantageous. However, the extraction process for any of the fossil fuels is damaging to God's earth.

**For these reasons and more, PA IPL reiterates its opposition to coal and to Marcellus natural gas as currently extracted and processed.**

#### **PA IPL could only support use of Marcellus natural gas if:**

- Its use was part of an overall strategy to move as quickly as possible away from coal in particular and fossil fuels in general; **and**
- The Commonwealth imposed a drilling tax or impact fee to provide substantial investment for the development of clean, sustainable energy sources to slow climate change, **and**
- If overall environmental, social, community, and health impacts from drilling are sharply reduced.

**None of these conditions is currently met.**

PA IPL sees it as imperative that communities of faith lead by example in addressing this energy crisis:

- Buy clean electricity not generated from fossil fuels, and
- Conserve energy in our buildings to lessen the need to heat with fossil fuels, and
- Speak out about the moral implications of energy choices.

PA IPL calls on:

- Elected officials throughout Pennsylvania at all levels of government to refuse contributions from companies involved in the exploration, drilling, production, transportation and sale of natural gas, and
- Faith-based institutions to refrain from entering into financial agreements with natural gas exploration or extraction companies until the issues highlighted here are adequately addressed.

*Read PA IPL's full statement of principles on Marcellus Shale Drilling at [www.paipl.org](http://www.paipl.org)*



*Communities of faith responding to climate change*