

Preparing Communities for Shale Development through Sustainable Planning

Social Impacts-Teaching Outline

Background

Shale development significantly affects predominantly rural communities with relatively low population density and little economic and social diversification (Lendel, 2014). These communities cannot easily absorb change, and the development has been associated with many challenges. A variety of challenges are related to social and family services, emergency response services, and law enforcement. Increased communication capacity, enhanced equipment and training, and additional individuals are needed to provide these services.

There is also an in-migration of temporary labor which can be documented by the increase of beds filled in hotel/motels (bed tax). Additionally, this strains the availability of rental property and other local resources. The rapid and short term influx of out-of-state workers also may change the community's culture. The size and duration of this influx of temporary workers is difficult to predict. However, reviewing trends, the size of the shale development, and the economic pace can help to predict the depth of impact.

Small community infrastructures are ill equipped to handle shale development-related emergencies and law enforcement issues related to the sudden influx of temporary workers. Many small communities have limited or shared volunteer law enforcement or volunteer emergency and fire response teams.

Introduction

This educational module is designed as a minimum two hour session to provide community leaders, stakeholders, and local businesses with information of social impacts of unconventional drilling or shale development in the community. This curriculum is intended for use by Extension Educators. Using a "train-the-trainer" approach, the initial target audience is Extension Educators and the intended external audience is community leaders and residents.

The design of this program is to help Extension Educators build their capacity to assess and identify social impacts of unconventional drilling. It is also designed to highlight the importance of long term strategic planning to promote diversity, viability, and sustainability that transcends the shale energy development.

Learning Objectives

Purpose:



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- Societal Issues with shale development
- Understand social impacts of development
- Historical research of other shale development areas
- Identify positive and negative social challenges

Outcomes:

- a) Participants will have a general knowledge of shale energy development and the characteristics of the social issues that may result.
- b) Participants will learn the role of long term strategic planning to promote social diversity and viability that transcends the shale energy development.

Workshop Author

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Process Used

Moderated panel discussion

Length

The recommendation for this module is two hours. This allows time for panel members to present information on their specific topic and follow up questions to the panel from attending audience.

Presentation

Purpose:

Provide an overview of social impacts of shale development

- Note that every community is different and sensitivities and concerns will vary from place to place. Whatever previous history, sensitivities may arise for all sorts of reasons. It is important for the Extension Educator and panel moderator to be aware of those concerns. This may also assist in guiding who the panel members may be.

Who:

Because social issues can encompass a large arena of speakers, it is advised to limit the issues. The recommendation is to have 3-4 panel members with questions sent to the panel members in advance for them to develop a brief 20 minute presentation.

Some suggestions include:



Landowner	First Responder
Oil and Gas Industry Representative	Social Services (Department of Job and Family Services, Senior Center)
Health Organization (Hospital, Health Department)	Housing Representative (Realtor, Hotel, Landlord, Campground)
University Rural Sociologist	Tourism Representative
Philanthropic Representative (Community Foundation)	Local Government (Mayor, Township Trustee, County Commissioner)
Public Education	Judicial Representative
Law Enforcement	Transportation (public, airport, car rental)

What:

The topics presented will vary according to the organizations that are a part of the panel. However, it is important to provide the panelists with a time frame and some talking points for their presentation at least two weeks prior to the event.

This is a great opportunity to share what your company is doing and the potential for community growth in _____. Please give a background of the company and yourself as a part of the panel.

- ✓ Tell us about the activity of your company.
- ✓ What are the social issues encountered at other places?
- ✓ What social impacts/issues are notable in this location?
- ✓ What changes can be expected?
- ✓ What have you seen in other communities that have been successful or have failed?

Supplies and Materials

Name cards for all speakers and moderator

Equipment as needed by panelists (request one-two weeks in advance)

Evaluation of social impact session for participants

For additional information, you may contact the author:

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REFERENCES

Lendel, I. (2014). Social Impacts of Shale Development on Municipalities. *The Bridge (44)*, 2. Retrieved from <https://www.nae.edu>

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