



# PA Environment Digest

## An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

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### **DCNR Secretary: Elimination Of Keystone Funds Is Permanent**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [Secretary Richard Allan](#) told the House Appropriations Committee Tuesday the transfer of over \$38 million from the Keystone, Parks and Conservation Fund to the General Fund is not just a one-time transfer, but is proposed to be permanent.

[Click Here](#) to watch a video of the hearing.

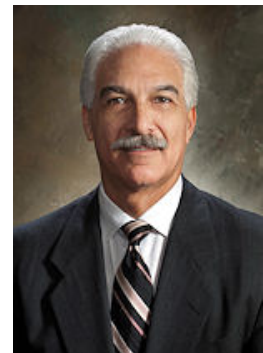
Here are some key questions asked during the hearing--

**More Drilling Leases:** Secretary Allan said there is a moratorium in place on further State Forest leasing for drilling. There are no plans to lease additional State Forest Land, but he said if they would, they would follow the recommendations of the [Governor's Marcellus Shale Commission](#) to only do leases where they leave little or no surface impact.

DCNR anticipates receiving a little over \$56 million in FY 2012-13, the FY 2011-12 revenue in royalties and rents from drilling, Secretary Allan said.

He said another 50 to 100 or so new Marcellus wells should be coming into production on State Forest land during the coming year, however, there may be some decrease in drilling revenues in the next year or so with lower natural gas prices.

Of the 812 well permits have been approved by DCNR on State Forest land, 778 Marcellus Shale wells have been permitted by DEP, 442 wells have been drilled and there are now 152 producing wells.



In response to a question, Secretary Allan said the agency professionals are constantly monitoring drilling companies to make sure they comply with their leases and agency best management practices, including encouraging the use of existing access roads and right-of-ways. He said so far, the drillers have been good stewards and have minimized their impacts on State Forest lands.