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PACD Applauds Recommendation for Conservation Districts to Once Again Inspect Natural Gas Drilling Sites

(Harrisburg, PA) – The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts today praised the Marcellus Shale Commission for its findings and recommendation that Pennsylvania’s county conservation districts should be permitted to inspect natural gas drilling sites for Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S) issues or violations.

“This recommendation just makes sense,” said MaryAnn Warren, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. “The staff at the conservation districts possess the expertise, local knowledge and familiarity with the regulations, as well as understand the importance of erosion and sediment control to provide an extra layer of environmental protection during the exploration and drilling of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale.”

If implemented, the recommendation by the Commission would reverse a prior decision that removed the responsibility from the conservation districts to provide oversight of E&S control to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This change was made by the department in 2009 to add E&S control oversight as part of the agency’s on-site inspections.

“The county conservation districts are poised and ready to once again provide the E&S control inspection responsibility,” said Robert B. Maiden, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. “The local office staff is out in the field everyday and can provide this important piece of our environmental protection responsibilities.”

“We look forward to pursuing this recommendation further with our partners at the Department of Environmental Protection,” Maiden added. “When it comes to protecting our natural resources, we believe we can continue to work hand-in-hand with DEP and



provide them with additional, local presence on these sites.”

Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control regulations require that anyone engaged in an earthmoving activity, such as site development at a natural gas drilling site, implement control measures to prevent or minimize accelerated soil erosion and the resulting sediment pollution. In addition to other environmental hazards, sediment pollution in streams can harm fish and other aquatic life, damages water supplies, exacerbates flooding, and causes property damage.

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PACD, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization representing Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts. For more information on the PACD visit www.pacd.org.

