**Western North Dakota Energy Project**

**Briefing 8**

**Emergency Response in Shale Country**

***Craig Konkle & Will Gay***

**December 7, 2012**

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| **Presenters** | **Craig Konkle,** Emergency Response Coordinator**,** Lycoming County, PA Dept of Public Safety  **Will Gay,** Safety Coordinator, Flint Energy Resources & Sublette County, Wyoming |
| **Key Insights** | **Community Gas Task Force:** Craig Konkle began by describing howLycoming County hasa task force with several sub-committees to address different types of impacts. The public safety sub-committee includes state and local managers and planners for safety issues. County task forces are a best practice in Pennsylvania.  **Industry Relationships**. The first problem during an energy boom is to determine what operators are drilling in your county and where. Both speakers agreed that face-to-face meeting with industry representatives is the most important first step. Industry shares the county’s interest in avoiding public safety emergencies in the first place is often willing to spend resources toward emergency response improvements.  **Well Addressing**. PA has a 911 system that requires a specific GPS address with driving instructions be attached to every new structure in the county, including wells. This is linked to a county software system that shows where emergencies are in relation to other wells. Evacuation perimeters can be easily established and the info communicated back to industry experts. PA even passed a bill requiring uniform signs be placed at each well location to assure responders that they have found the right place. PA also requires developers to report to 911 when they are flaring wells, so as to reassure citizens calling in. Will Gay noted that Wyoming is not as sophisticated, with many roads having only BLM designations and multiple local names. One developer does share data with all company well locations directly with EMS responders, and industry has been happy to put signs at confusing intersections to guide responders.  **Training Responders**. Konkle talked of 35 different volunteer fire departments in his county. While they would not be asked to put out fires in the well bore, they may encounter many types of specialized situations. Industry paid $300K, and Lycoming County developed a 4 hour training called “*Wellsite Emergencies for First Responders*.” This is the first of its kind, and industry pays for the training with any local responder. Another company paid $80K to conduct a full simulation of 5 types of emergencies at one of its wellsites, in order to analyze where gaps in service exist. This has led to building a training facility at the PA College of Technology. Don Longmuir of Mountrail County added several questions and comments.  **Volunteer Burnout**. Both Konkle and Gay noted the issue of burning out volunteers with the increased frequency and complexity of calls. Sublette County has a rural health district that funds 27 paid EMTs with property tax revenues.  **Dealing with Distance & Isolation**. Gay described the distances to any EMS service and especially to hospitals in his region. Industry and county collaboratively built a new facility with new ambulance at Sand Draw in order to shorten response times. |
| **Supporting**  **Research** | The Project Electronic Library has the slide presentations as separate documents. They contain more detailed information. |