

Lycoming County Pennsylvania A Shale Play Destination



Photo was taken at a local drilling site in Lycoming County

"We wanted to let you know how much we appreciated last week. What great information! You truly went above and beyond. The time and commitment that you put into our visit was impressive."

– **Cindy Voorhies**
Ohio SBDC Director

Event Location:

Lock Haven SBDC Outreach Center
100 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Event Dates:

4/9/2012 – 4/10/2012

Time: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

No. of Participants:

Ohio SBDC Network – 3
PASBDC Network – 8

Co-Host:

Penn State MCOR

SBDC Clients:

Big Woods Land Company
Corbin's Footwear
Drug Testing Centers of America

Lock Haven University SBDC

Timothy J. Keohane, Director
301 West Church Street
Lock Haven, PA 17745
(570) 484-2589
tkeohane@lhup.edu

Technological advancements in drilling have now made once-elusive shale formation resources accessible to oil and natural gas companies. With a new supply of energy, come new jobs, government revenues, and economic growth.

Over the past few decades, Ohio's once vibrant oil production has been declining. Now that eastern and central Ohio may be home to the Utica "sweet spot," offering natural gas thought to be rich in liquids – especially attractive in this pricing environment – all that may be changing. Located a few thousand feet below the Marcellus shale play, the Utica actually extends much farther geographically, covering a great deal of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Ohio. Because the Utica underlies the Marcellus, much of the infrastructure that a company needs to pay for to drill is already in place.

This knowledge led members of the Ohio SBDC network to reach out to the Pennsylvania SBDC's Center at Lock Haven University to learn about best practices in providing shale play resources to small business owners. After an initial contact from the Ohio SBDC, the staff of the Lock Haven SBDC started coordinating a visit from the Ohio SBDC in collaboration with the Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research at Penn State University.

The agenda included two packed full days of meetings with local business owners, economic and workforce development officials and educators on April 9-10, 2012. Day one of the visit, hosted by the Penn State MCOR, included an overview of the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays, a tour of the impact of Marcellus development in Williamsport and surrounding areas, and a networking dinner with numerous regional economic development representatives and Oil & Gas professionals.

Day two of the visit, hosted by the PASBDC network, included an overview of Network-wide Marcellus Shale activity, past, current & future outreach efforts among the Centers, and brainstorming about interstate SBDC partnering and networking opportunities throughout the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays.

At the conclusion of the visit, it was suggested that a group of PA/OH/NY/WV SBDC representatives assemble in Western PA/Eastern OH later in the year to continue discussing the development of additional resources to be offered to entrepreneurs who are interested in connecting with the Marcellus and Utica Shale plays.