



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Gene Yaw
Chairman

Adam Pankake, Executive Director

Room 362 • State Capitol Building
Mailing address: Senate Box 203023 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3023
Phone: 717-787-3280 • FAX: 717-772-0575 • energy@pasen.gov

Summary Senate Bill 279, P.N. 138 **Prime Sponsor: Senator Hutchinson**

Summary

- Establishes the PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council.
- The Council consists of:
 - The Secretary of DCED or the secretary's designee.
 - The secretary of DEP or the secretary's designee.
 - One member of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.
 - One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.
 - One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House of Representatives Minority Leader.
 - The following members are appointed by the Governor
 - Two representatives of the PA Independent Petroleum Producers.
 - Two representatives of the PA Independent Oil and Gas Association.
 - Two representatives of the PA Grade Crude Oil Coalition.
 - Two representatives of refineries of PA grade crude oil.
 - One representative of a nonprofit corporation, which has the purpose of promoting the history and economic benefits of the conventional oil and gas industry in this Commonwealth.
 - One representative of academia who is a geologist with an expertise in petroleum geology.
 - One representative of academia who is a hydrologist.
- The council will meet at least semi-annually.
- The council is required to:
 - Examine and make recommendations regarding existing regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.Cs.

- Explore the development of a regulatory scheme for environmental oversight and enforcement specifically applicable to the conventional oil and gas industry.
 - Promote the long-term viability of the conventional industry
 - Assist the Secretary on new departmental policy that will impact the conventional oil and gas industry.
 - Review and comment on the formulation and drafting of all technical regulations proposed under 58 Pa.Cs.
 - Provide institutional support for the conventional oil and gas industry through communication and cooperation among governmental agencies and academic/research community.
 - Recommend appropriate measures relating to the promotion and development of the conventional oil and gas industry.
 - Develop a plan to increase PA grade crude oil production in an environmentally responsible way to more adequately supply refineries which depend on the grade crude oil.
 - Develop a joint working group to develop an environmentally responsible and economically viable production water management option.
- The council is required to annually issue a report of its activities to:
 - Governor
 - Secretary of DEP
 - President pro tempore of the Senate
 - Minority Leader of the Senate
 - Chairperson and minority chairperson of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
 - Speaker of the House
 - Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
 - Chairperson and minority chairperson of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
- The department's duties are as follows:
 - Consult with the council on all policies and technical regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.C.S.
 - Include written comments of the council received before the department's submission of a proposed rulemaking to the EQB.
 - Provide technical assistance required by the council.

Effective Date

- This act shall take effect immediately.