**REPORT: MARCELLUS PRODUCTION UP IN 2011**

Natural gas production from Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale wells continued to climb in the second half of 2011, according to data reported by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Pennsylvania’s deep gas wells pumped out 607 billion cubic feet of gas between July and December, bringing the year’s total production to a milestone 1 trillion cubic feet – enough to surpass the amount of natural gas used in the state each year.

By the end of the year, 2,210 of the commonwealth’s shale wells were tied into pipelines and producing gas – a 35 percent increase in the number of producing wells since the first half of 2011 that helped account for a 40 percent jump in production.

The average amount of gas produced daily during the six-month period – 3.3 billion cubic feet per day – was slightly less than industry projections.

A July report funded by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, a Pennsylvania industry group, projected an average production of about 3.5 billion cubic feet per day by 2011.

The study’s estimate was based on drillers’ anticipated drilling plans for he year, but many producers cut back on both production and drilling as natural gas prices dropped.

(By Laura Legere – standardspeaker.com, Published February 27, 2012)