

Comments from Participants in CSSD

“These 15 Performance Standards are meaningful. This is the type of collaborative model that experts, leaders and policy makers from around the world believe is necessary to earn and keep a social license to responsibly develop the shale resource that Pennsylvania and the Appalachia region are fortunate to have. The benefit of that resource cannot be at the sacrifice of other important resources – including our air and water.”

Paul Goodfellow
Vice President Unconventionals US
Shell Upstream Americas

“Increased use of cleaner burning natural gas, as well as the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, can represent a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and improvement in our nation’s air quality. But for Pennsylvanians to fully benefit, it is crucial that shale gas be developed in an environmentally sound manner. The aim of the Center is to promote transparency and the use of environmental and public health standards that meet and exceed that required by law, which will promote public confidence in industry leaders as this resource is developed into the future.”

George Jugovic Jr.
President and CEO
Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (PennFuture)

“Shale gas has transformed our nation’s energy mix, while both offering environmental benefits and posing serious environmental challenges. The Center for Sustainable Shale Development has an important role to play in the ongoing process of continuous advancement of industry practices that must improve to protect neighbors of oil and gas development, and the environment we all share. This effort provides a forum where leading companies can demonstrate and get recognition for excellence in environmental performance – thus setting a new, higher bar for all operators to meet. While this effort is promising, there are many companies drilling shale gas which means the only sure protections for all the neighbors and our water and air will be when we finally have in place strong regulations and consistent compliance.”

Fred Krupp
President
Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

“Natural gas producers and environmental organizations managed to work together to produce a meaningful set of standards to reduce the risks and environmental impacts of shale gas production. It’s a particularly remarkable accomplishment given how contentious and polarizing the public conversation about shale gas tends to be.”

Joe Osborne
Legal Director
Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)

“During our 120 years of operation, we have learned an important lesson: preserving the environment is good business and EQT sets high standards when it comes to the safety of our operations and protection of the environment.

As a leading natural gas producer in the Appalachian basin, EQT Corporation has worked hard to refine and improve our production techniques so that our region and our country can benefit from natural gas resources, while protecting our environment. During our 120 years of operation, we have learned an important lesson: preserving the environment is good business and EQT sets high standards when it comes to the safety of our operations and protection of the environment.

We need to work together to establish our region as a center of excellence in new natural gas development. For that reason, EQT Corporation is proud to be one of the founding members of The Center for Sustainable Shale Development, which will establish a voluntary, independent evaluation and certification process to recognize companies that achieve and maintain high standards of performance.

EQT Corporation is committed to assuring that shale development is approached in a manner that is considerate to our neighbors, respectful of the land and its heritage, and responsible and accountable to future generations.”

David L. Porges
CEO
EQT Corporation

“The obligation of The Heinz Endowments is to engage any issue which affects the people of the region in a significant way, and the Marcellus Shale certainly qualifies. Our involvement in CSSD is the result of a confluence of factors: first, we have long made grants in support of protecting and preserving the natural environment; we also have long made grants in support of improving the economy of the region and the financial condition of those who live here; we subscribe to the premise that the only way to resolve major issues/challenges is by having all points of view at the table, supported by the very best research.”

Robert Vagt
President
The Heinz Endowments

"The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is proud to part of the CSSD. PEC has been deeply involved with shale gas issues in Pennsylvania since 2009. Development of shale gas, like any industrial process or land development, presents many environmental challenges. In this case, while oil and gas wells are ubiquitous in western Pennsylvania, unconventional drilling and its scope of operations was new to the Commonwealth. PEC has worked diligently to ensure that these new operations are regulated in a way that minimizes the impacts to Pennsylvania's waters, land, and air. This has not been easy as the technologies continue to evolve and regulatory systems struggled to catch-up. The opportunity to participate in CSSD with other leading NGOs and members of the gas industry committed to go beyond regulation has helped us to further our understanding of the technical processes and to help put in place standards that will continue to evolve and provide enhanced protections for Pennsylvania's citizens and natural resources. With the public launch of CSSD we have started down the path together with the other partners and look forward to continuing the journey."

Davitt Woodwell
Executive Vice President
Pennsylvania Environmental Council