

Marcellus Milestone

PGE drills first horizontal Marcellus Shale gas well in Potter County

By CHUCK HAYES

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Warren-based Pennsylvania General Energy has reached a milestone in the effort to develop Marcellus Shale resources in Pennsylvania.

Earlier this month, PGE drilled the company's first horizontal Marcellus Shale gas well in Potter County.

"It is a milestone because everyone is trying to position themselves in the Marcellus Shale," said Dave Mashek, senior partner for WJG & A Public Affairs and Strategic Communications. "PGE is going up against some pretty big players."

The Warren firm is a privately-owned company focused on the development of oil and gas wells in the Appalachian Region. It employs more than 110 professionals and has drilled more than 1,100 producing wells during the past three decades.

Mashek said that PGE has now drilled 84 Marcellus Shale wells in Potter County but the latest is the first utilizing horizontal drilling technology.

PGE currently holds leases with landowners for more than 272,000 acres in Forest, Elk, McKean and Potter counties.

PGE has also announced contracts have been signed to drill several more horizontal wells in the region.

"PGE prides itself on being close to all aspects of planning, drilling and operating wells, just as it prides itself on being close to the communities and property owners that are our partners in the development of new energy sources," said Douglas Kuntz, president and CEO of PGE.

"As a company focused on Pennsylvania-based energy resources, we are proud of the many successes we



Photos submitted for publication

Drilling

In the top photo, drilling work is underway at the site of PGE's first horizontal well in the Marcellus Shale in Potter County.

In the photo at left, the gas well in operation.

have had," said Kuntz. "PGE continues to explore new ways to unlock Pennsylvania's gas reserves, as evidenced by drilling our first horizontal Marcellus Shale well. This is an important achievement for all of our employees and landowner partners."

The recent emphasis on the devel-

opment of wells in the Marcellus formation has eclipsed equally important drilling opportunities in other oil and gas bearing geological formations which PGE continues to explore, said Kuntz.

"PGE is an active participant in the competitive market to drill gas wells

in Marcellus Shale," said Kuntz. "At the same time, our experienced personnel and use of technology give PGE an edge in drilling productive wells in other formations and we are having great success in Potter, McKean, Elk and Forest counties with wells in multiple oil and gas zones."