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January 29

## [New gas leases recorded](#)

### **Carrizo filed 41 records of gas leases in three Luzerne County municipalities.**

MATT HUGHES mhughes@timesleader.com

For the first time in 2011, new gas lease records have been filed at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Marcellus Shale gas driller Carrizo (Marcellus) LLC filed 41 records of gas leases in three Luzerne County municipalities: Lake Township, Dallas Township and Harveys Lake.

A spokesman for Carrizo said the leases are not new, as the company has not added new leases to its holdings in about a year, but are probably being filed or updated for legal compliance purposes.

Ownership records of some area properties date back to the 18th century, Vice President of Investor Relations Richard Hunter said, and it is important for gas companies to document a clear chain of ownership of natural gas rights.

Carrizo's lease holdings in Luzerne County straddle the northern border with Wyoming County, Hunter said.

By far the largest of the properties for which records were filed is the 11,917-acre Sterling Farms property owned by the Sordoni family. While most of the plot lies in Noxen Township, Wyoming County, a portion borders Harveys Lake.

Hunter said Carrizo has not applied for a drilling permit for the property with the state [Department of Environmental Protection](#) but that "we certainly plan on doing that."

Carrizo is also preparing to begin drilling an exploratory vertical gas well on the Shields property of state Route 29 in Monroe Township, about three miles from Harveys Lake. Site preparations began less than two weeks ago at the exploratory well site, and Hunter said drilling will probably begin next week.

Hunter said the vertical well will be used as "an evaluation of the immediate neighborhood and would be followed up by other horizontal wells in the immediate neighborhood."

"We have no reason to believe it will not meet our expectations," Hunter also said of the well.

Local environmental groups and Harveys Lake residents have expressed concern about the proximity of the Carrizo well and potential future wells to the lake.

Environmental activists on Jan. 2 presented a model ordinance to the Harveys Lake Borough Council proposing the process of hydraulic fracturing used by gas companies to extract gas from shale be effectively banned in the borough.

*For a list of the gas leases, see Page 7A.*

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