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Range Resources challenges Pa. town's ordinance

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PITTSBURGH — A major Marcellus Shale drilling company is challenging a southwestern Pennsylvania township's ordinance to regulate oil and gas well development.

Range Resources-Appalachia filed the notice challenging the validity of the ordinance approved last year by South Fayette Township, a Pittsburgh suburb.

The ordinance requires drillers to obtain a land operations permit for each well, and creates buffers around schools, hospitals and certain types of businesses.

Range Resources contends the ordinance is illegal because it says a state law that regulates drilling pre-empts and supersedes it.

As such, Range Resources says it is being "deprived of its legal right to develop its oil and natural gas property interests" on about 4,000 acres it has leased in the township.

The township's manager did not immediately return a call and e-mail for comment.



A drilling rig works the Marcellus shale in Houston, Pa. (AP file photo/Keith Srakocic)

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