



U.S. EUROPE ASIA

Home Page for the World's Business Leaders

Free Trial Issue

Search

Stock Quote

[Home](#)
[Business](#)
[Investing](#)
[Technology](#)
[Entrepreneurs](#)
[Op/Ed](#)
[Leadership](#)
[Lifestyle](#)
[Lists](#)

[Video](#)
[ForbesWoman](#)
[CEO Network](#)
[Org Chart Wiki](#)
[Mobile](#)
[Portfolio Tracker](#)
[Blogs](#)
[E-mail Newsletters](#)
[Special Reports](#)

Associated Press

Ridge: Gas industry must improve public image

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM , 06.16.11, 04:35 PM EDT

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. -- Former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, now a consultant to the natural gas industry, said Thursday that drillers operating in the Marcellus Shale recognize they need to improve their image if they want to be "warmly embraced" by the public, not just "grudgingly accepted."






Ridge toured several shale outcroppings with a Penn State University geologist, seeking to learn more about the gas-bearing rock that's led to a drilling boom throughout northern and southwestern Pennsylvania.

While talking up the economic potential of the Marcellus, Ridge told The Associated Press that energy companies know they must do a better job of reassuring citizens that they take environmental protection seriously.

"The industry, from my perspective, needs to be concerned about their public image and needs to understand what they need to do to improve it," Ridge said. "They are conscious of it. They know they have some work to do."

He said that drillers may have misjudged how Pennsylvania residents would feel about an industry that arrived virtually overnight, creating startling wealth and tens of thousands of jobs but also plenty of headaches, including truck traffic, industrial accidents and contaminated aquifers.

Article Controls

-  EMAIL
-  REPRINT
-  NEWSLETTER
-  COMMENTS
-  SHARE

Real-Time Quotes

06/17/2011 3:50PM ET

XOM	\$79.33	0.14%
XTO	\$41.81	0.00%

Get Quote

GO

BATS Real-Time Market Data by Xignite

"There may not have been as much initial sensitivity to the fact we (in Pennsylvania) don't quite have that broader cultural notion of drilling as part of the environment as they do in Oklahoma or in Texas," Ridge

said.

Related Stories

- [Fracas Over Fracking May Raise Costs Of Nat Gas Production For Exxon](#)
- [Country Risk: What Happens When A President Dies?](#)
- [Sweeping Reform Attempt Could Shake Up Nigeria's Oil Industry](#)
- [Hedge Fund Billionaire Falcone Likes Crosstex Energy And MLPs](#)
- [Texas Tycoon Earns Another Billion-Dollar Payday Dealing Marcellus Shale Acres to Chevron](#)

Related Videos

Don't Run Out of Money in Retirement

If you have a \$500,000 portfolio, download the guide by *Forbes* columnist Ken Fisher's firm. Even if you're not sure how to start rebuilding your portfolio or who to turn to for help, this must-read guide includes research and analysis you can use right now. Don't miss it!

[Click Here to Download Your Guide!](#)

FISHER INVESTMENTS™

- [A Start-Up Is Born In The Bathroom](#)
- [Ludacris Announces Live Large Project](#)
- [Why Product Endorsements Must Be Authentic](#)
- [A Major League Contraction?](#)
- [U.S. Officials Probe Whether Banks Colluded on Libor](#)

Ridge declined to talk about a state Senate bill that would impose a so-called impact fee on Marcellus drilling operations, but said he assumes the Legislature and Gov. Tom Corbett will arrive at a compromise. Pennsylvania is the largest gas-producing state without an extraction tax.

Rate This Story

Your Rating 

Overall Rating 

Reader Comments

[Post a Comment](#)

"My instincts tell me there's going to be some kind of revenue generation. I just don't know where it's going to be and in what form," he said.

Ridge toured several sites in Lycoming County, where state environmental regulators confirmed Thursday they are investigating a Marcellus well pad as the possible source of methane found in seven water wells and a creek. [XTO Energy](#) ([XTO - news - people](#)) Inc. has drilled three gas wells about 2,300 feet away. The company, a subsidiary of energy giant [ExxonMobil Corp.](#) ([XOM - news - people](#)), has voluntarily stopped operations in the county and agreed to supply water to the affected residents.

Both Ridge and Terry Engelder, the Penn State geologist leading Thursday's tour, said that methane contamination of well water was a problem in Pennsylvania long before the arrival of the gas industry. Engelder, an industry booster, said a high percentage of Pennsylvania's water wells would fail "any sensible set of water well standards."

But he acknowledged that drilling, if not done properly, can cause methane to migrate into aquifers.

"Any well that is drilled will encounter pockets of methane. That's just sort of the first rule of thumb. Engineers have to learn to manage the methane here in terms of preventing it from leaking in significant quantities up into the groundwater," he said.

Engelder's 2008 calculation of vast reserves in the Marcellus helped spur the drilling frenzy. More than 3,000 wells have been drilled so far in Pennsylvania. He estimates it could take more than a century to fully exploit the resource.

Ridge, who left the governor's office in 2001 to serve as the nation's first Department of Homeland Security secretary, was hired last summer as a strategic adviser to the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry group.

He listened gamely as Engelder talked about the 389 million-year geologic history of the Marcellus and lectured on the mechanics of rock fractures. The former governor clambered over loose rocks, swung a rock hammer to break apart pieces of shale, and colored a rock face with white chalk to bring the shale's natural fractures into relief.

"Is this pass or fail?" Ridge joked. "G-A-S. I passed."

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Get Stories By Email

Select Topics:

XTO Energy AP Business

ExxonMobil Corp. Energy

Not a member yet? [Join Now!](#) Already a member? [Log In](#)

Enter Username Enter Email

Select Your Title **Receive Special Offers?**

[SIGN ME UP >](#) [FAQ](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)



Free Trial Issue

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Email

[SUBMIT](#)

Ads by Google

NY - Protect Marriage

Act Now to Protect Traditional Marriage. Contact Your State Senator

NationForMarriage.org

Most Popular

[Russia & China Leaders Get Cozy in St Petersburg](#)

[A Start-Up Is Born In The Bathroom](#) ▶

[Exxon Exploration Spending Pays Off With Major Gulf Find](#)

[Ludacris Announces Live Large Project](#) ▶

Reader Comments

[Post a Comment](#)

2 Stocks to Hold Forever [www.StreetAuthority.cor](#)

Buy them, forget about them, and never sell them.

Capture Safe 8.5% Yields [www.GlobalDividends.c](#)

Here are 3 safe, high-yield stocks every income investor should own

Nat Resource Consultants [www.chazencompanies](#)

Wetland Permits-Endangered Species- Wells-Pumping Tests-Sustainability

WCAT: Wildcat Energy ETF [www.alpsETFs.com/V](#)

Natural Gas and Oil Exploration ETF Learn More.



AdChoices ▶

1. [How To Use The Cloud Effectively](#) | Video
2. [Bicycles Of The Future](#) | Video
3. [Names You Need To Know: Khan Academy](#) | Video
4. [Forget Zuckerberg. This Guy Is Changing Facebook.](#) | Video
5. [Alexa Von Tobel's LearnVest](#) | Video
6. [The World's Billionaires](#) | Story
7. [The World's Most Powerful Celebrities](#) | Story
8. [America's Best Colleges](#) | Story
9. [The World's 10 Most Wanted Fugitives](#) | Story
10. [Twelve Nasty Work-From-Home Scams](#) | Story

Most Commented


1. [A Nuclear Iran Is Inevitable](#)
12 COMMENTS
2. [IBM At 100](#)
6 COMMENTS
3. [Spot The Tortoise?](#)
5 COMMENTS
4. [The 10 Steps To Make Your Kid A Millionaire](#)
4 COMMENTS
5. [Nouriel Roubini Is All Wrong About China](#)
3 COMMENTS

[More >](#)



SHOCKING: \$9 Car Insurance in NY

Clifton Park: Mom discovers \$9 car insurance trick. Auto Insurers are SCARED you



New Policy in York

Drivers with no DU New York may b eligible for \$9 per car insurance.

[SITEMAP](#) [HELP](#) [CONTACT US](#) [INVESTMENT NEWSLETTERS](#) [FORBES CONFERENCES](#) [FORBES MAGAZINES](#)

[Advertising Information](#) [Self-Serve Advertising](#) [Forbes.com Mobile](#) [RSS](#) [Reprints/Permissions](#)
[Subscriber Services](#) [Privacy Statement](#) [Terms, Conditions and Notices](#)
2010 Forbes.com LLC™ All Rights Reserved