

## **Section 511 Oil and Gas Operations**

Introduction: In order to implement Section 603 (i) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code, which requires provision for the reasonable development of minerals in each municipality, and recognizing that minerals are defined by the same code as including crude oil and natural gas, Springfield Township has established the following as reasonable regulations upon Oil and Gas Operations. The Township recognizes that while Oil and Gas operations have industrial or quasi-industrial characteristics, this activity can only occur in reasonable proximity to where such mineral resources are located.

### **511.1 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this Section, the following terms shall be interpreted or defined as follows. Where there is a conflict between a definition in this section and definition contained in Article 8, the more specific definition of this Section shall apply:

**Applicant:** Any person, operator, partnership, company or corporation, including their subcontractors and agents, who has an interest in Oil and Gas Development in the Township.

**Centralized impoundment—**A facility designed to hold fluids or semi-fluids associated with oil and gas activities, including wastewater, flowback and mine influenced water, the escape of which may result in air, water or land pollution or endanger persons or property, constructed solely for the purpose of servicing multiple well sites.

**Department:** The Department of Environmental Protection of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Existing Building:** An occupied structure with walls and a roof, within which individuals live or customarily work. This definition includes only structures which are occupied at the time of an application for oil and gas operations, but "occupied" shall include temporarily vacant structures that are for sale or lease.

**Impoundment Area:** An earthen depression, excavation, pit or facility situated in or upon the ground, used to store water or other fluids related to oil and gas operations.

**Natural Gas Compressor Station:** A facility designed and constructed to compress natural gas that originates from a gas well or collection of such wells, operating as a midstream facility for delivery of gas to a transmission pipeline, distribution pipeline, Natural Gas Processing Plant or underground storage field, including one or more natural gas compressors, associated buildings, pipes, valves, tanks and other equipment.

**Natural Gas Processing Plant:** A facility designed and constructed to remove materials such as ethane, propane, butane, and other constituents or similar substances from natural gas to allow such natural gas to be of such quality as is required or appropriate for transmission or distribution to commercial markets, but not including facilities or equipment that is designed and constructed primarily to remove water, water vapor, oil or naturally occurring liquids from the natural gas.

**Oil and Gas:** Crude oil, natural gas, methane gas, coal bed methane gas, propane, butane, natural gas liquids and/or any other constituents or similar substances that are produced by drilling a well of any depth into, through and below the surface of the earth.