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# Indiana Township says control of gas drilling 'limited'

By Michael Aubele  
VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH  
Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Indiana Township supervisors told residents Tuesday night that there is little they can do to control natural-gas drilling in the community.

About 50 residents showed up at the supervisors' monthly meeting to express concern about continued drilling of the Marcellus shale formation -- a gas-rich deposit that stretches 8,000 feet beneath the surface.

Two workers -- Andy Yosurack Jr., 56, of Creekside, Indiana County, and Kevin Henry, 46, of New Florence, Westmoreland County -- were killed July 23 in an explosion and fire at a gas well in the township.

The supervisors, who did not take any action last night, said they are working on an ordinance that would regulate all natural-gas drilling in the township, not just Marcellus shale.

"We're limited in what we can do," Supervisor Daniel Taylor said. "Most of our control comes through zoning. The township can regulate the where but not the how."

Resident Elissa Weiss suggested that supervisors join state Sen. Jim Ferlo, D-Highland Park, in urging a ban on natural-gas drilling on state forest lands and private property for one year while a commission considers the ramifications.

"I think we need to be attentive to these hazards," said Weiss. "This is a really significant issue that will impact township residents."

Resident Ken Wolfe said he is worried about outside drilling companies, many of which are headquartered in Texas.

"It seems like these drilling companies have carte blanche to do whatever they want, whenever they want," he said.

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### About the writer

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