



Marcellus Shale activity in Pennsylvania is a complex topic to address in an educational program. RiverQuest has chosen to address this topic as a focus for educational activities because of the importance to Pennsylvanians, in terms of human concerns - both economic and environmental.

As an educational organization, RiverQuest operates under the umbrella of environmental and resource conservation, where productive and well-informed questions can lead to innovations that prevent or mitigate human impacts on environmental health. The RiverQuest vessel itself embodies this focus. *Explorer* is a “green” boat that features a hybrid electric propulsion system,

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environmentally conscious choices in furnishings and interior, and operations “greened” across the organization. Science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) are at the heart of all RiverQuest programs. The questions inspired by this new industry represent the intersections of science, technology and society (STS) in real time – here and now. The use of current issues serves to enhance STEM programming. Additionally, the topic furthers discussion of historic fuel sources, the motivations that have made them viable, the challenges that each presented over time, and how people dealt with those challenges.

RiverQuest programs that deal with Marcellus Shale activity have one main goal. As programs address both the challenges and opportunities that this industry presents to Pennsylvanians, participants gain an enhanced understanding of gas shale drilling so that they may better understand information in the media surrounding this topic. The programs are not intended to dictate or change an opinion, but rather provide a more robust basis for forming informed opinions.

Participants gain an enhanced understanding of gas shale drilling... a more robust basis for forming informed opinions

RiverQuest programs take a neutral position

RiverQuest programs that deal with Marcellus Shale activity do not take a for-or-against position. RiverQuest bases program content on the input from industry and university experts, from expertise of RiverQuest staff, and from current resources available from entities including Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (PA DCNR).

Entities that support RiverQuest Marcellus Shale programs financially are encouraged to contribute current information that may be used in the program and acknowledged to them as its source. Supporting entities do not set program content, nor influence the neutral position of the program presentation.