



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: KATHLEEN CAMPBELL, MARKETING DIRECTOR
570-662-0422
570-662-8512 (FAX)

FIRST CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK
15 S. MAIN STREET
MANSFIELD, PA 16933

Gas Lease Owners Have More to Think About

Submitted by First Citizens National Bank, Mansfield PA

June 2009 - The discovery and extraction of Marcellus Shale in our area has certainly presented local landowners with a tremendous financial opportunity. And just when you thought the excitement and confusion surrounding this gas boom had begun to settle down, there is yet one more piece to the ever-changing puzzle.

Because some consumers may prefer not to wait for their royalty payments, companies are now approaching leaseholders with the option to buy all or part of their future royalties for a lump sum payment now. Leaseholders are receiving letters from various companies who obtain the landowners lease information from public records. If you're approached by one of these companies — do your homework and seek professional advice before signing any agreement.

Talk with your accountant to understand the financial impact of taking a lump sum payment for the sale of your mineral rights instead of the possibility of future royalties. Evaluate the risk and reward of each option. If there is an immediate financial need, work with your accountant or banker to identify all opportunities for resolving the issue.

Thoroughly investigate the company making the offer and its history. It is always prudent to know who you are dealing with. How long have they been doing this? Are they financially strong? Do they have a good reputation or have there been legal actions filed against them?

Have your lawyer review the documents to ensure you fully understand where your rights begin and end as it relates to your royalty interest and most importantly, your property. If the beauty and integrity of your property is important to you, be sure your wishes regarding how your property is treated, where wells and pipelines are to be located, and time restrictions for drilling or removal of equipment are considered. Many of the items added to your lease agreement to protect you may not be included in this buy-out offer.

Do your homework – then weigh the pros and cons carefully before making any decisions. This decision will impact your future and that of your family.