

## STATEMENT

Upon consideration of the information received from various sources, including the citizens interest group Protect PT, the Township of Penn, Apex Energy, LLC, Huntley & Huntley Energy Exploration, LLC, the Zoning Hearing Board of Penn Township, Gradient Corporation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as the decision of United States District Court Judge Mark P. Kearney of the Western District of Pennsylvania, it has been determined by the Board of Education of the Penn-Trafford School District not to proceed with the independent monitoring of air quality within and around the schools of the District at this time.

The Township Zoning Hearing Board has specifically determined that Huntley & Huntley has demonstrated that the operations proposed do not interfere with the right of Penn Township citizens to clean air and fresh water and that the proposed operation will not affect the health safety or welfare of the citizens of Penn Township, and that the operation of the site will satisfy the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and relevant portions of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The decision of the Zoning Hearing Board established conditions which must be met including the proper use of soil, securing necessary permits, the building and maintenance of sound walls and monitoring of noise by a third party, planting of vegetation for visual enhancement, implementation of a 24 hour emergency hotline, the monitoring of air quality, the mitigation of direction and deflection of light sources, and the limitation of utilization of trucks or construction vehicles after consulting with the School District.

These same limitations have been addressed by Federal Judge Kearney in the Consent Judgment and Order involving the Township and Zoning Hearing Board in connection with Apex Energy, LLC.

That being said, the District has been in contact with both companies to address the bus scheduling and has also updated emergency plans and conducted a drill in cooperation with the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety addressing the process for a school

evacuation in the event of an incident. The District is also in the process of working with an engineer to determine what may be needed in order to proceed with a retrofit of the Districts ventilation systems in order to use Hepa filters.

The Board understands that situations and conditions may change with time and will continue to be vigilant in assessing the continuation of a safe environment for students, staff and others in the school setting.