

South Fayette Township  
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## South Fayette Township Details review Process of Range Resources Zoning Hearing Board Appeal.

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South Fayette - September 9, 2011

South Fayette Township has received numerous questions regarding Range Resources-Appalachia, LLC's Validity Challenge of Ordinance No. 5 of 2010 which enacted various Zoning Restrictions pertaining to operations associated with Oil and Gas drilling. In an attempt to keep the residents of South Fayette informed the Board of Commissioners has issued the following press release.

First, Range has submitted an application to the South Fayette Township Zoning Hearing Board under Article XX, Section 240-131 A of the Township's Code of Ordinance. This section provides that Township Zoning Hearing Board shall have jurisdiction to hear and render final adjudication of a substantive challenge to the validity of any land use ordinance, except curative amendments brought before the Board of Commissioners. It should be noted that the Zoning Hearing Board is a quazi-judicial board consisting of three residents of the Township appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The current Board also has one alternate member that can participate in a decision in the absence of any regular member. The application submitted by Range was received after the established deadline for the September meeting. Therefore, the application will be

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scheduled before the Zoning Hearing Board on October 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM. A final location for this meeting has not yet been determined but will be publicly announced on the Township's website and in the Township's official newspaper. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive and review evidence regarding the case. The ZHB may make a decision that evening. Or they may continue the meeting to a later date if the proceedings are lengthy. Or they may reconvene to deliberate. By law, the ZHB must provide written findings on the application within 45 days after the date of the last hearing. Following the rendering of a decision from the ZHB, anyone with standing may file and appeal through the Court of Common Pleas.

The Township's Zoning Ordinance Amendments were drafted to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of South Fayette Township, while balancing the rights of land owners and mineral lessees to develop their properties. After holding multiple public meetings and hearings in 2010, the Board of Commissioners achieved this balance by prohibiting surface drilling in the Township's residential zoning districts, but by permitting drilling in the Township's commercial and industrial districts. We believe that the validity of the Township's Zoning Ordinance will be upheld and will use all appropriate energies and resources to defend the validity of the adopted ordinances.

For any further comments, please contact Michael W. Hoy, Township Manager at 412-221-8700 or Jonathan M. Kamin, Township Solicitor at 412-281-1119.