

# AS A MATTER OF FACT... ACTS & LAWS



It is a fact that the federal government has enacted a number of acts and laws to protect the air, water, communities and workers. These acts and laws include: Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Right to Know Laws. It is also fact that the natural gas and crude oil industry is NOT exempt from these acts and laws.

## **FACT #1 CLEAN AIR ACT:**

In 1990, Congress directed EPA to take steps to control and update emissions from area sources representing 90 percent of hazardous air pollutants that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Emissions from the production of natural gas and crude oil were included in this update.

In Ohio, the natural gas and crude oil industry is subject to the National Primary and Secondary Ambient Air Quality Standards, Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources, and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories.

## **FACT #2 CLEAN WATER ACT:**

The Ohio EPA requires the natural gas and crude oil industry to acquire certification / permitting under Section 401 and Section 404 of the U.S. EPA Clean Water Act. The permits are part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for any storm water discharges. Since Ohio utilizes Class II wells for primary disposal of oil and gas brine, there is no discharge into the waters of the State.

## **FACT #3 SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT:**

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulates the disposal of crude oil and natural gas produced waters under its Underground Injection Control Well program – specifically Class II wells. Ohio Revised Code 1509.221 clearly states to implement the goals of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas Resources shall not issue a permit under this section unless the chief concludes that the applicant has demonstrated that the drilling, injection of a substance, and extraction of minerals or energy will not result in the presence of any contaminant in underground water that supplies or can reasonably be expected to supply any public water system.

## **FACT #4 RIGHT TO KNOW LAWS:**

S.A.R.A. Title III also known as the Emergency Planning Community and Right to Know law was enacted in 1986. Ohio's natural gas and crude oil industry files, or makes available, chemical inventories as required under these laws.

