

# PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

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## **DCED Secretary Says More Drilling On State Forest Land Could Raise Over \$60 Billion**

In a [Capitolwire.com](#) interview Tuesday, Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary C. Alan Walker said new drilling on State Forest land could bring in \$60 billion over the next 30 years to "solve just about every economic problem we have."

Walker was quoted as saying, "But the way I look at it, the potential royalty income to the state of Pennsylvania-- at a 15 percent or 18 percent and a half percent royalty rate-- over the next 30 years, if we do lease the state land, is close to \$60 billion. That allows us to solve just about every economic problem we have that is hanging out there, including unfunded pension liability, infrastructure problems.

"In my opinion, we'd be foolish not to use that money. The way I look at it is that truly is the Commonwealth of the state of Pennsylvania and it should be used to solve Commonwealth problems, not one regional problem or a county problem. That truly is where you get your resources to solve statewide problems.

"The way the drilling platforms are being set up today, where you may only have to have one pad every so many square miles, it's a minimum impact on the State Forest property, and in a matter of a couple years, it's going to be re-vegetated," Secretary Walker explained.

In a statement Kevin Harley, Gov. Corbett's press secretary, said, "[Secretary Walker] was speaking as someone who is in charge of economic development. He wasn't speaking on behalf of the Governor."