

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Kirk Wilson
(717) 783-9882

**PENNSYLVANIA RECOGNIZES ENERGY,
ITS EFFECTS ON THE COMMONWEALTH**

*“Energy: Innovation and Impact” focuses on state’s important role
of fueling the nation*

Harrisburg, PA – Pennsylvania’s important role in fueling the nation is the focus of a year-long public education campaign of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

“Pennsylvania has long been one of our nation’s leading energy producers,” Gov. Edward G. Rendell wrote in an introduction to the PHMC’s quarterly publication, Pennsylvania Heritage. “Today, we’re still an energy leader, but our reputation is now one of innovation in terms of how energy is produced and how it’s used.”

“Energy: Innovation and Impact” is the theme of the commission’s 2009 public awareness initiative, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Edwin Drake’s successful drilling for oil in Titusville, Venango County.

“By examining the history of energy, we can better understand how choices made in the past have affected the present,” said Barbara Franco, executive director of the PHMC. “Just as important is how the decisions we make today hold consequences for tomorrow.”

The campaign will include:

- A new public exhibit entitled “A Drop of Oil in Your Life” at the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, a National Historic Landmark,
- Exhibits at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg featuring
 1. “Oil 150” sponsored by the Oil Region Heritage Alliance and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council,
 2. A special self guided “Energy Tour” of the Hall of Industry and Technology, sponsored in part by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

3. A photo essay on Pennsylvania's Wind Turbines opening in November 2009
 - An Energy Trail of History™ tour, featuring energy/industry-related sites and state historic markers.
 - An energy-related website and blog where the public can share information on energy history and news
 - Educational presentations by professional PHMC staff on Energy: Innovation and Impact at professional association conferences.

“Using less energy is good for our citizens and businesses because it can save them money,” Rendell said in acknowledging the PHMC theme. “It’s good for our environment because it means less pollution that contributes to unhealthy air and global climate change.”

For additional information on “Energy: Innovation and Impact,” visit the PHMC web site at www.PHMC.state.pa.us .