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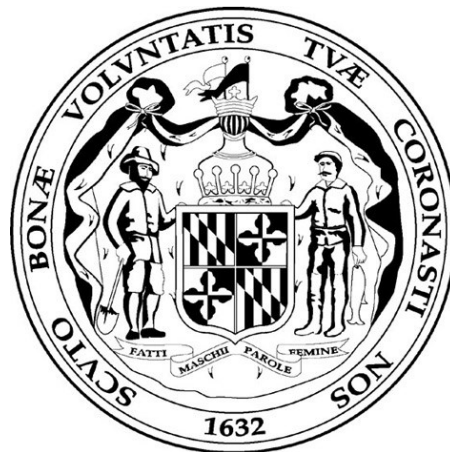
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Davin L. Seamon *

Statutory Developments

The Marcellus Shale development, in Maryland's Western panhandle counties of Garrett and Allegany, remains paralyzed pursuant to a seemingly now permanent prohibition on "the hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of oil or natural gas in the State."¹ The

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1. MD. CODE ANN., ENVIR. § 14-107.1(b) (West 2018).

Maryland statute defines Hydraulic Fracturing as “a stimulation treatment performed on oil and natural gas wells in low-permeability oil or natural gas reservoirs through which specially engineered fluids are pumped at high pressure and rate into the reservoir interval to be treated, causing fractures to open.”² Thus, the draft regulations contemplated by prior versions of the aforesaid statute, published by the Maryland Department of the Environment in the Maryland Register on November 14, 2016,³ and discussed in last year’s Summary⁴ were never adopted.

2. MD. CODE ANN., ENVIR. § 14-107.1(a) (West 2018).

3. Maryland Department of the Environment, Marcellus Shale Drilling Initiative, <http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/mining/marcellus/Pages/index.aspx>.

4. See Davin L. Seamon, *Maryland*, 3 OIL & GAS, NAT. RESOURCES & ENERGY J. 719, 721-22 (2017).