

# Marcellus Drilling News

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## The Injuns are Coming! Injun Formation Drilling, that is

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Sorry, but we can't avoid using a politically incorrect term in this report: "Injun." As in the Big Injun Formation, a layer of tightly-packed sandstone that lies above the Marcellus Shale layer in several West Virginia counties. Apparently there's natural gas in the Big Injun in Clay County, WV, and Cunningham Energy (of Charleston) is going to drill three horizontal/fracked wells to try and get that gas. Fracking the Big Injun has been talked about for a long time (here's a [Society of Petroleum Engineers conference paper](#) that specifically addresses that very topic from 1988!). However, *combining* horizontal drilling *with* fracking is relatively new and didn't happen in the northeast until Range Resources drilled the first Marcellus Shale well in 2004 in western PA.

Until now, we've heard of the horizontal drilling/fracking combination being used in the Marcellus, the Utica and the Upper Devonian. Looks like we can now add a fourth formation to that illustrious list: the Big Injun. Good luck to Cunningham Energy as they go Big Injun hunting for natural gas...

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