

**For immediate release**

Catherine DeLoughry  
(412) 281-4783 ext. 3131  
[cdeloughry@alleghenyconference.org](mailto:cdeloughry@alleghenyconference.org)

**Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and local leaders begin community outreach efforts on proposed petrochemical facility project**

*PRA and Shell coordinate site visit for local officials to Shell facilities in Louisiana*

(PITTSBURGH – June 19, 2012) The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA), in partnership with local leaders, announced today the beginning of a community outreach effort surrounding the world-scale petrochemical complex that Shell Chemicals LP (Shell) has proposed building near Monaca, Beaver County.

The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance is working with Shell to carry out an educational tour on June 20th and 21st to Geismar, Louisiana, home of Shell facilities similar in size and scale to those proposed for Beaver County. This outreach effort is coordinated by the PRA, a regional economic development and marketing organization, as part of its mission of promoting Beaver County and the broader 10-county region for business investment.

Trip participants will learn about petrochemical facility operations and associated downstream investment activity along with the impact and benefits of petrochemical facilities within communities and broader regions.

“Although Shell has not yet made a final decision about building a world-scale petrochemical complex in Beaver County, it is time for the community to move ahead and learn more about petrochemical facilities, associated downstream activities and the impact and benefits that the community and our region as a whole can expect to experience,” said Dewitt Peart, PRA president.

“Beaver County and the entire region have a long history of supporting manufacturing and the skilled, well-paying jobs that come with industrial production and we look forward to learning more,” said Beaver County Commissioner Joe Spanik, who is participating in the trip.

The first step in the community outreach effort will be a site visit by local leaders to an established Shell petrochemical facility in Geismar, Louisiana (approximately 60 miles from New Orleans). The delegation includes elected officials from Beaver County, Potter Township, Center Township, the Central Valley School District, and representatives from

the PA Governor's Action Team, Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance.

The site visit attendees plan to share what they learned on the trip at a future meeting to be scheduled upon return.

Learn more about Shell's potential petrochemical project in the US Appalachian region by visiting [www.shell.com/chemicals/appalachia](http://www.shell.com/chemicals/appalachia).

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The [Pittsburgh Regional Alliance](#) works with partners across all 10 counties of the Pittsburgh region to promote and market our region and provide direct client services to business decision makers considering investment.