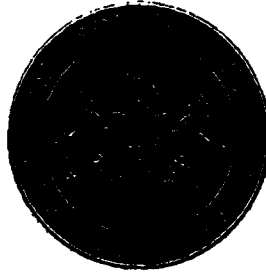


JOHN R. MCGINLEY, JR., ESQ., CHAIRMAN  
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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**  
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

March 8, 2001

Honorable James M. Seif, Chairman  
Environmental Quality Board  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street, 16th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Regulation #7-353 (IRRC #2124)  
Environmental Quality Board  
Oil and Gas Wells

Dear Chairman Seif:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on March 8, 2001. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at [www.irrc.state.pa.us](http://www.irrc.state.pa.us).

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that met the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. McGinley, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John R. McGinley, Jr.

Chairman

wbg

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Arthur D. Hershey, Majority Chairman, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
Honorable Camille George, Democratic Chairman, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
Honorable Mary Jo White, Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
Honorable Raphael J. Musto, Minority Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
Sharon Trostle, Regulatory Coordinator, Environmental Quality Board  
Barbara Sexton, Director of Policy Office, Environmental Quality Board

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held March 8, 2001

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman  
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Phone  
Arthur Coccodrilli  
Robert J. Harbison, III  
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 7-353  
Environmental Quality Board  
Oil and Gas Wells

On May 31, 2000, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). This rulemaking amends 25 Pa. Code Chapter 78. The proposed regulation was published in the June 17, 2000 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on February 6, 2001.

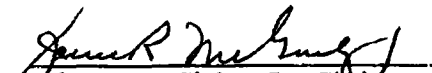
This rulemaking updates and clarifies existing regulations. It amends brine spill reporting requirements, notification requirements, permit requirements, disposal options and drilling through gas storage reservoirs. In addition, it includes language that brings existing regulations into consistency with the statute concerning the elimination of the bonding requirements for oil and gas wells drilled prior to April 18, 1985.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Environmental Quality Board (58 P.S. § 604) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:**

This regulation is approved.



  
John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman