



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-4527 • Fax 717-787-2878

#2741

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I note that EQB Final-Omitted rulemaking: Marcellus Shale Well Permit Fees (#7-430) is on the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's March 19, 2009 agenda.

I have attached a letter written on behalf of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) regarding DEP-related funding issues. I direct your attention to the third paragraph of the letter stating CAC's support for increasing fees tied to DEP's programs, as many of them have not been adjusted for a number of years, and are inadequate to offset the Department's costs in administering its programs. While this letter is not specific to the regulation cited above, it is a statement of our general support for bringing DEP's fees in line with current program costs.

The fees for the Oil and Gas Program have not been increased since 1984, and they do not provide for the complex issues, increased scrutiny and record level of activity associated with the Marcellus Play. We have been urging the Department to ensure adequate staff to protect the environment while being responsive to the industry's concerns; the increased fees provided for in this package are needed to support additional staff and the near-term demands on the program.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Wilson
Executive Director

Enclosure



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to the Department of Environmental Protection

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June 27, 2007

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council¹ to the Department of Environmental Protection, I am writing to you about the need for additional funding for essential environmental protection.

In particular, we ask you to provide a dedicated source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (HSCA). Governor Rendell has proposed raising the tipping fee on waste by \$2.25 per ton to provide stable funding for HSCA. We support this approach, and would also be interested in other revenue-raising ideas that keep HSCA whole without reducing or eliminating funding for other successful environmental and conservation programs. We respect the fact that the legislature has tough fiscal decisions to make regarding the FY'08 budget and we look forward to working with you to tackle issues like funding the Hazardous Site Cleanup Fund and other important initiatives.

In addition, we ask that you give consideration to increasing fees tied to the Department of Environmental Protection's programs. Many of DEP's fees have not been adjusted for a number of years, and are inadequate to offset the Department's costs in administering its programs. There also needs to be some level of confidence that the revenue from these fees will be appropriated to DEP for program costs.

Thank you for your continued support for a clean and healthy environment and protecting Pennsylvania's rich natural heritage. Please feel free to call Sue Wilson, Council's Executive Director, at 787-4527 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Carrow
Chair

¹ The Council is a legislatively created advisory committee charged with reviewing all environmental issues, legislation, regulations, policies and programs relating to Pennsylvania.

