

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

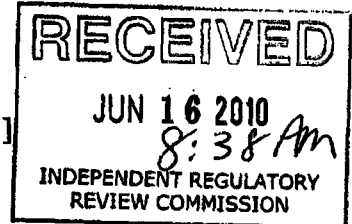
2783

From: Sarah Brown [sjbrown510@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:08 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Docket #2783 and Docket #2806, Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Wastewater

Commissioners Coccodrilli, Bedwick, Lutkewitte, Mizner, and Fineman:

RE: Docket Number #2783 [EQB 7-440: Erosion and Sedimentation Control]

RE: Docket Number #2806 [EQB 7-446: Wastewater]



Pennsylvania stands to take a major step forward in protecting the health of its rivers and streams. Both of the Environmental Quality Board's actions on Wastewater and Erosion and Sedimentation Control from its May 13, 2010 meeting would take us a long way to preserving a clean and healthy water supply in our state for many years.

I strongly urge you to approve the Environmental Quality Board's proposed revisions to the Chapter 102 regulations, including the section that would mandate 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams. I also strongly urge you to approve its new regulations on Wastewater, including the section that requires natural gas drillers to treat their wastewater before they release it into our waterways, to the point that it has no more than 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 250 mg/L each of Sulfates and Chlorides.

Requiring developers to maintain a buffer of trees and plants alongside our state's best streams is a smart, low-cost solution to protect these important natural resources and the communities and businesses that depend on them. Because buffers take advantage of Pennsylvania's existing natural resources, they deliver significant economic, health and safety benefits with very low investment from taxpayers and businesses.

Buffers filter out pollutants in river water before it becomes drinking water, they reduce the risk of flood damage, increase property values and the tax base, maintain lower stream temperatures and better water quality needed by fish and save Pennsylvania money on stormwater management by using existing natural resources effectively.

DEP's proposal of 500 mg/L for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 250 mg/L each for Sulfates and Chlorides will go a long way towards ensuring that federal drinking water standards are met across the state for TDS. It is critical that any TDS wastewater effluent standard be protective of aquatic life. We strongly encourage IRRC to approve the standards and to preserve them as discharge standards.

With tourism and recreation serving as major drivers of Pennsylvania's economy, it is critical that we protect the resources these industries depend on: our rivers and streams, especially the EV and HQ streams that stand out as the most attractive for these visitors. In 2008, Pennsylvania's tourism industry provided \$18 billion in wages to more than 600,000 residents. Fishing activities alone generate \$4.7 billion per year in revenue for the state—supplying 43,000 jobs.

Pennsylvania is a water rich state. So rich, in fact, that we have taken our water for granted. This cannot continue. If we continue to tear out all the forest protecting streams and dump millions of gallons of water six-times saltier than the ocean into our waterways, we

will become a state rich with water that isn't any good to anyone. Please approve these regulations on June 17th.

Sincerely,

Sarah Brown
4 Bell Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335