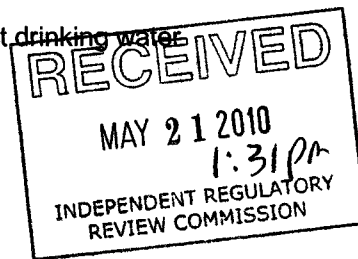


From: PennFuture [pennfuture@pennfuture.org] on behalf of Ashley Schmid
[ashley@ttfwatershed.org]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 1:05 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: URGENT: Please support strong regulations to protect drinking water



May 21, 2010

Independent Regulatory Review Commission PA

Dear Review Commission,

Please vote to support regulations that reduce the risk that total dissolved solids (TDS) pose to our rivers and streams. Pennsylvania's rivers and streams provide billions of dollars of direct and indirect economic benefit to the Commonwealth's families, farms, and industries.

Total dissolved solids have already polluted drinking water and led to massive fish kills. We need these rules in place to control the significant new source of TDS pollution from gas drilling wastewater.

- Over the next several years, dramatically increased development of the natural gas-bearing shales in Pennsylvania threatens to exacerbate this problem in rivers and streams throughout the state.

- In late 2008, high TDS levels in the waters of the Monongahela River south of Pittsburgh threatened to shut down industries that are dependent on the River's fresh water for their operations, and made household water undrinkable for approximately 330,000 people in the southwestern part of the state.

- In August and September 2009, the discharge of high-TDS wastewater into Dunkard Creek, a tributary of the Mon located mostly in Greene County, from coal mines in West Virginia and Pennsylvania wiped out virtually all aquatic life in that stream.

- Please consider the long term effects that TDS can have on our waterways and not just the short term effects that drilling will have on the state budget.

I fully support DEP's efforts to establish effluent standards for new sources of wastewaters containing high concentrations of total dissolved solids and urge the DEP to go even further in protecting our waterways.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashley Schmid
1 Awbury Rd
Philadelphia, PA 19138-1505