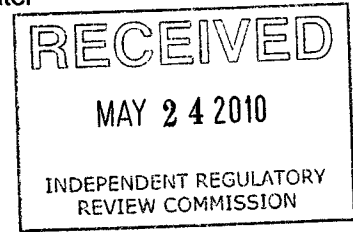


2806

From: PennFuture [pennfuture@pennfuture.org] on behalf of Iris Marie Bloom [imbloom2001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 1:41 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Please support strong regulations to protect drinking water



May 24, 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.

I personally testified at EQB hearings last fall in favor of a 250 mg/l limit, an even more stringent limit than the 500 mg/l limit proposed by the DEP, because the science shows that damage to fish begins at 250/mg TDS.

Furthermore, new studies show that the background salinity of our streams and rivers due to overuse of salt in deicing roads means that our streams and rivers are increasingly compromised, even without any increased TDS from shale gas drilling. So, ideally, the amount of TDS that should be allowed to be dumped into our precious freshwater streams and rivers is... zero!

High-TDS Marcellus Shale wastewater has polluted the Monongahela River, rendering it temporarily useless to industry and to water drinkers; and also contributed, along with coal wastewater, to the Dunkard Creek disaster which killed over 10,000 fish and 161 species of aquatic life for over 38 miles of formerly pristine, biodiverse creek.

Therefore, even though I wish they were even stronger, it is ESSENTIAL that these new TDS limits be passed into law as quickly as possible. Although they do NOT protect our streams and rivers from all the toxic contaminants in fracking flowback waste, they provide a MINIMAL protection for aquatic life and drinking water. I cannot urge you strongly enough to support this new standard.

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. Iris Marie Bloom
4808 Windsor Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3416