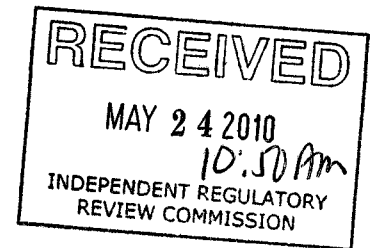


2806

From: PennFuture [pennfuture@pennfuture.org] on behalf of Larry Menkes
[soundsynergy@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:10 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Please support strong regulations to protect drinking water



May 23, 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.

This natural gas will not disappear. Gas prices are very low these days and will become more valuable as time goes on. After observing the huge blowout in the Gulf of Mexico, prudence and the precautionary principle dictates that we perfect fracturing for gas in Pennsylvania before any more drilling is permitted.

Fiscal responsibility demands that we use energy wisely, and we're not doing that at all. As long as we're wasting as much as half to 90% of the energy we use, doesn't it make sense to concentrate on ending that waste? Let's drill there first, save money, help the environment, and homeowners, create good, productive jobs in weatherization and other energy efficiency areas.

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,

Mr. Larry Menkes
741 Clifford St
Warminster, PA 18974-2527