

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
MEMBER 171ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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2819

March 15, 2010

MAR 18 2010

Environmental Quality Board
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**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today to offer brief comments on proposed Rulemaking 25 PA Code Chapters 92, 92a. My comments are specific to the Bellefonte wastewater facility that discharges to a high quality rated stream (Spring Creek).

The average monthly 8mg/l Total Nitrogen limit will require the plant to denitrify year round. If the plant experienced some system issue during a month, it could put them out of compliance.

The average monthly 10 mg/l TSS change is a major reduction from the existing permit of 30 mg/l TSS. Given the drastic reduction, it would seem reasonable to provide some transition period to allow operators to adapt to the new equipment associated with the new nutrient limits.

The proposed rule changes will mean higher unfunded costs as a direct result of the increased treatment levels, testing and reporting requirements. These increased fees will be passed along to the customers. The proposed fee increases can have a detrimental effect on customers who are already seeing rate increases due to mandated improvements in the treatment process. It is imperative to reduce costs in times like this with many business and residential customers struggling to pay their utility bills.

Thank you for taking my comments on behalf of Bellefonte Borough.

Sincerely

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
State Representative
171st Legislative District

KAB/hw
Cc: Ralph Stewart, Manager