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From: Leslie Meeder [mlmeeder@windstream.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:41 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Quality Board proposed amendment to the regulations on Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing, Chapter 78.

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July 16, 2010

Environmental Quality Board
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

RE: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) proposed amendment to the regulations on Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing, Chapter 78.

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

I agree with the recommendation by the EQB to update the existing requirements regarding the drilling, casing, cementing, testing, monitoring and plugging of oil and gas wells, and the protection of water supplies.

I have been quite concerned about the lack of sufficient regulations and what has seemed to me to be a lack of information about the potential negative environmental effects of natural gas drilling. Proper regulations are necessary to protect us. So I am very glad you are addressing this. The criminal BP gas leak in the Gulf and the plight of Dimmock, PA. are just two of the recent events that make me distrust big gas and big oil.

In fact, I think the DEP needs to make the regs even more stringent: There should not be only six month's responsibility for a degraded public or private water supply. The gas companies should be responsible as long as the well remains in operation, and until it is permanently plugged. I also feel the cost of the water testing (both before and after drilling) should be born by the gas companies. And what if our homes decrease in value because of the gas wells? Should not the gas companies bear responsibility for that as well?

I would add that I believe there needs to be full public disclosure (and publicity; i.e., fact sheets in all mailboxes) about benefits vs risks before we are asked to sign any leases.

Thanks for your work on this!

Sincerely,

Leslie Meeder
302 Kepner Hill Road
Muncy, PA 17756