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From: John and Marilyn Palmer [jpalmer16@stny.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 9:26 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Chapter 78 Oil & Gas Regulation change comments

Section 78.51: (c) **Within 10 days of the receipt of the investigation request, the Department will investigate the claim and will, within 45 days of receipt of the request, make a determination.**

I believe that the 45 day response time to make a determination is too long. Consider what a family or homeowner must go through during that one and a half month wait to protect his family's health and the additional time that remediation of the problem will take to correct the problem(s). I would like to see a shorter intermediate goal to make a reasonable determination that a drilling related problem is likely and get drilling companies to help the homeowner until the final determination is complete.

Section 78.83: (c) **If no fresh groundwater is being utilized as a source of drinking water within a 1,000-foot radius of the well, the operator may set and permanently cement a single string of surface casing through all water zones, including fresh, brackish and salt water zones.**

I don't believe that the cementing requirements should be based on the presence or absence of a current drinking water source at any distance from a well. The regulations should protect all present and future users of the property without any exception. I'd like to see this statement stricken. If the statement is to stand, I think the distance should be 2500 feet, to allow for more reasonable future development of adjacent land with respect to utilization of the ground water for drinking, without possible well contamination.

Sincerely,
John W. Palmer
Athens, PA

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