

Cooper, Kathy

From: Meeder, Curtis N LRP [Curtis.N.Meeder@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, August 06, 2010 9:45 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: Shaffer, Joshua D LRP; Adipietro, Dana M LRP; Reilly, Rosemary J LRP; Hawkins, Lenna C LRP
Subject: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS ON OIL AND GAS CASING AND CEMENTING CHAPTER 78

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, agrees with the recommendations 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.

The Pittsburgh District operates eleven multi-purpose reservoirs in western Pennsylvania within the Upper Ohio River basin, and five additional reservoirs within our area of responsibility in eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia. Among the authorized purposes of these reservoirs are releases to improve water quality in the rivers downstream. The capacity of the reservoirs to achieve this purpose is limited, especially during extended periods of low precipitation.

The prevention of spills from activities associated with gas well drilling and on-site storage of returned hydraulic fracturing wastewater, through stricter standards, monitoring, and enforcement as covered by these proposed amendments, is essential to protect nearby wetlands, groundwater, tributary streams and creeks, and downstream bodies of water from being impaired.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed new rules for Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing.

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