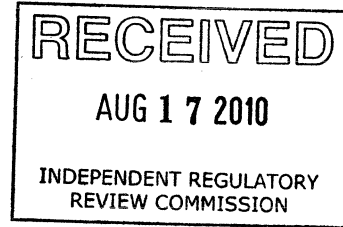


From: Kirk Rys [kirkrys@gmail.com]
 Sent: Sunday, August 08, 2010 7:18 PM
 To: EP, RegComments
 Subject: 25 Pa. Code Ch. 78



From Kirk Rys
 Mailing Address: 5009 Silver Oaks Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

After having been born and raised in PA, I left a few years back, only to return this past Fall. Upon my return, I've begun to hear about the Marcellus Shale. I've always been aware of gas drilling in PA. My grandparents had land (which now belongs to my cousin) that sits just outside Chapman's Dam State Park, surrounded by the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). When the ANF was opened to expansive drilling in the 70's, our grandparents lost the use of their well water due to contamination related to the drilling.

Now I'm hearing about this new surge in drilling, and I have some reluctance. To learn more, I attended a hearing held by the Allegheny County Council some 3 weeks ago. At the hearing, they invited representatives from the oil industry to speak of the benefits. One speaker from Atlas Drilling commented on the current fact that there is no drilling in the City of Pittsburgh. He ended his comments: "I truly feel bad for the City (because of the lack of drilling)". I sat back and tried to understand why he felt bad. I couldn't figure it out then, and I cannot figure it out now. My whole thoughts on this drilling: WHERE IS THE BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF PA, AND TO THE STATE GOV'T????

Drilling companies have everything to gain, with little to lose, while the opposite can be said for the residents of PA. What benefits exist for the residents? Those with drilling leases garner some benefit, but not much. What about those who are having the gas removed underneath their land by horizontal drilling, or by the fact that suction at the well site will draw gas from surrounding lands? They receive no compensation. And yet, when the oil companies leave, what's left...the potential for significant environmental degradation. Not to mention, where is all this water coming from that the drilling companies need for fracking? I've heard quotes that they require from 1-3 million gallons per well? Are they pulling this water from our streams and rivers? I can't believe that they have any right to remove our assets, in particular without any compensation.

As for state and local gov'ts, they're the ones formally left dealing with the environmental consequences, not to mention the other affects, such as roads, etc...which have been detrimentally affected by these shale drilling operations.

And yet the drilling companies take the gas, process it, and make a killing, and perhaps leave without any consequences. Since they're corporate entities, if they go bankrupt or insolvent, there will be no one to go after years from now if and when environmental problems arise.

Perhaps with a significant severance tax that allows the state and local gov't to recoup their costs, while also providing additional benefits, and perhaps with stringent regulation and oversight, this drilling can be done to benefit both the drilling companies and the state residents. But as it is now (with my limited understanding), we the people of PA have too much to lose. And don't be fooled by the drilling companies claims of increased employment: that won't be permanent, and that's certainly no mitigating factor if and when a significant environmental catastrophe takes place that's due to drilling.

Thanks for the consideration.