

Cooper, Kathy

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From: ccnfiscal@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 3:17 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Chapter 78 Regulations

AUG 17 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Good afternoon EQB Members:

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to adopt the more rigid natural gas drilling standards as set forth in the proposal made by Harvey Consulting. It is essential to the well being of the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the following guidelines be adopted:

- Gas company restoration/replacement of polluted or damaged water supplies incurred due to negligent drilling company activities and accidents
- Stronger cement casing standards to protect underground water supplies and aquifers
- Inclusion of adequate blow preventers on all wells (This would have prevented the first damaging spill in Clearfield County.)

Clean air, water, forests, wildlife and other natural resources are this Commonwealth's most valuable resource. These natural resources will sustain us and our children well into the future, long after the natural gas supplies have been depleted. Natural gas companies cannot be trusted to protect our natural resources having already incurred over 1,400 DEP citations. The State of New York has placed a moratorium on drilling because further study is needed to ensure drilling does not contaminate the state's water supply. It is imperative that Pennsylvania maintain every effort to keep its natural resources from the destruction from the natural gas companies. If Pennsylvania continues to drill, than regulation of the natural gas industry is imperative.

Based on a review of political contributions received by this Commonwealth's legislators from the gas and energy companies, it is easy to see that our legislative officials have "deep pockets" and the natural resources of this Commonwealth will take a back seat to the lobbying activities that exist. During 2008 alone, lobbying affiliated with gas & energy companies have resulted in donations to candidates and parties in the amount of \$132.2 million.

I hope this information will provide how important it is for the EQB to protect the citizens and natural resources of this Commonwealth. I urge you to adopt the regid standards as previously discussed.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Aikins, Ph.D.
127 East Adams Ave
Vandergrift, PA 15690-1302