

Cooper, Kathy

2851

From: Jeff Fry [jfrypi@paonline.com]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 5:22 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Chapter 78 Regulations

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2010 AUG 23 P 1:24

Dear EQB:

I respectfully request that the Environmental Quality Board include the language proposed in the Harvey Consulting report in the new Chapter 78 regulations.

Having served during the Casey and Ridge Administrations as Deputy Inspector General, I am particularly aware of the importance of having regulations that set strict, high standards for performance and safety for those doing any kind of business or service for the Commonwealth, especially in this case where public health and our waterways and supplies could be in danger. While industry typically wants minimal standards to simplify their work and reduce costs, the Commonwealth MUST set strict and absolutely safe standards to protect the public and our environment. Need we discuss the non-oversight of the timber and coal booms and their impact of the Commonwealth and its citizens? There can be no excuse this time for poisoned land and water caused by gas exploitation companies. We the people still cannot compete with the vast financial and political influence of the industry this time around either. The difference is that now there is a Department of "Environmental Protection" and EQB with the mandate and ability to strictly regulate the activities of those cashing in on our gas reserves and natural environment. We REALLY need you now.

You are the only voice that will speak meaningfully to the industry, with a voice they must listen to. The public and the environment have no standing to speak, request, or command anything to or of the industry. Realistically we have no sanctions to bring on them.

You, the EQB and DEP, are our only voice and we implore you to protect us FIRST with strict regulations and standards, BEFORE allowing this "BOOM" industry to overrun our lives as it has in so many other places in the country. And, then, we ask you to vigorously enforce those regulations to the letter of the law, including swift and vigorous enforcement combined with very significant costs, fines, and penalties for any and all infractions of the regulations, disbaring any repeat offenders. These companies are going to make a lot of money. If they do anything to endanger the environment or health and welfare of our citizens, financial sanctions should be very significant.

The industry will, as they always have, try their best to operate in a way that will maximize profit, quickly. It is axiomatic to them that weak regulations will enhance their profitability. They see regulations only as a cost to be minimized.

Please look out for the public and the environment as you forge these most important rules and regulations.

Also, please understand that I have good friends and clients on both sides of this issue. I believe we need to extract the resource, but it must be done responsibly and carefully without the extensive devastation to the environment of prior booms in PA. As a cabin owner in the PA Wilds, along Pine Creek, I am acutely aware of how long it can take nature to heal from the excesses of man. Responsible extraction and exploitation of the gas reserves is what must occur and you are the only people who can make that a safe reality.

Please consider that YOU and the Commonwealth are responsible to the people; the industry is responsible to their investors.

Thank you for your diligence and service to all the people of PA.

Sincerely,

William J Fry III
2038 Creek Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545