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November 6, 2017

Via Electronic Mail

Chairman George D. Bedwick
Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Re: Environmental Quality Board Regulation #7-535 (IRRC #3150) Stream Redesignation – Swiftwater Creek

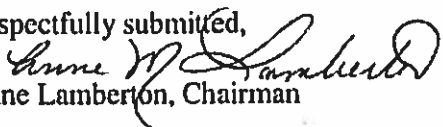
Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Tobyhanna Township provides this letter in support of the comments submitted by Pocono Manor Investors, LP (“Pocono Manor”) on the Environmental Quality Board’s (“EQB”) Regulation #7-535 (IRRC #3150), which would reclassify the Designated Use of Swiftwater Creek to Exceptional Value (“EV”). Tobyhanna Township agrees, for the reasons raised by Pocono Manor, that the findings in PADEP’s February 2016 Stream Redesignation Evaluation Report (the “Report”), which provides the technical basis for Regulation #7-535, are not supported by sound science or consistent with PADEP’s regulations and guidance.

In a similar issue with Tunkhannock Creek, questions were raised about the process of reclassification, methods used for testing and validity of interpretation of results. In working with legal counsel and meeting with DEP on this similar issue, Tobyhanna Township feels it is appropriate to request postponement of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission’s decision on the Swiftwater Creek issue until further data can be collected and the situation reviewed by affected parties.

Furthermore, Tobyhanna Township is deeply disturbed by the lack of actual notice provided to Pocono Manor, which is the entity most greatly impacted by this proposed reclassification, even after Pocono Manor had made PADEP aware that it was adamantly opposed to the reclassification of Swiftwater Creek to EV. Tobyhanna Township joins Pocono Manor in requesting that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (“IRRC”) defer action on Regulation #7-535 to allow time for Pocono Manor to thoroughly review PADEP’s underlying data and develop additional factual information regarding the proper classification of Swiftwater Creek to present to PADEP, the EQB, and IRRC, as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


Anne Lamberton, Chairman

**cc: Patrick McDonnell, PADEP Secretary
The Honorable Senator Gene Yaw, Chair, PA Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
The Honorable Senator John Yudichak, Minority Chair, PA Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
The Honorable Representative John Maher, Chair, PA House of Representatives Environment Resource and Energy Committee
The Honorable Representative Mike Carroll, Minority Chair, PA House of Representatives Environment Resource and Energy Committee
Annie Lamberton, Supervisor, Tobyhanna Township
George Ewald, Supervisor, Tunkhannock Township
William Pipolo Jr., Supervisor, Barrett Township
Steve Pine, Director of Development, Kalahari Resort and Conference Center
David W. Moyer, President, Papillon & Moyer
Karl M. Weiler, Chairman, Weiler Corp.
Nick Igdalsky, CEO, Pocono Raceway**