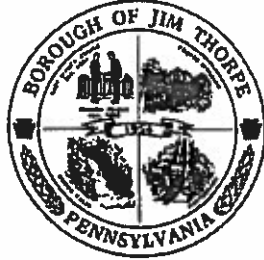


3177



RECEIVED
IRRC

2017 SEP 22 P 3: 22

101 East Tenth Street· Jim Thorpe, PA 18229
(570) 325-3025 • (570) 325-2181 • FAX (570) 325-8154

September 22, 2017

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Chapter 109 – Safe Drinking Water
General Update and Fees
Draft Proposed Regulations

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

The Jim Thorpe Borough Council has reviewed and discussed the Draft Proposed Regulations for Chapter 109.1401 General Update and Fees. We are providing our written comments for your consideration.

As a Borough, we fully understand the challenge of unfunded mandates that we both, as governmental entities, are faced with. The proposed fees included with the Draft Proposal seem quite excessive. State funding cuts require the DEP to investigate all available options in order to complete your duties as required. The Borough is faced with this same responsibility.

As is required of local governments, the Borough Council of Jim Thorpe is suggesting that the DEP follow the same guidelines and charge fees which are adequate to cover the actual costs incurred by the DEP for the completion of your duties. The proposed fees are excessive and appear to be a means for the DEP to bring in funds in order to assist in the operation of the entire Department, not just for the specific task involved. Further, the proposed fee schedule places an unfair burden on those communities with public water while those who do not have public water will benefit by means of these fees paying for items not associated with the water supply.

We are requesting that you re-evaluate the proposed fee structure. We previously forwarded a copy of these comments to Governor Tom Wolf to encourage he adequately fund the State Departments and not place this burden on small local governments and their residents.

Sincerely,

Maureen Sterner
Borough Manager