

3231

Emily Krafiack  
1155 Nimble Hill Road  
Mehoopamy PA 18629  
570-637-0972

RECEIVED  
IRRC

May 1, 2019

2019 MAY -1 P 2: 36

Environmental Quality Board  
PO Box 8477  
Harrisburg PA 17105-8477  
Submitted via ecomment

Re: Air Quality Fee Schedule Amendments 49 Pa.B 1777

To Whom It May Concern:

The Environmental Quality Board proposes to amend fees and make new fees in order *"to address the disparity between revenue and expenses for the DEP Air Quality Program. These increased fees and new fees would be used to provide a sound fiscal basis for continued air quality assessments and planning that are fundamental to protecting the public health and welfare and the environment."*

The Program's expenditures for Title V are exceeding revenue since fiscal year 2016-17 and Non-Title V since fiscal year 2015-16. It's obvious to anyone who understands accounting that this trend will continue with no revenue increase.

There are few things in life more important than air. In fact, in just a few minutes lacking air a person dies. Asthmatics and sufferers of COPD readily experience breathlessness with impaired air quality. The young, infirmed and older population are immediately effected from poor air quality. When fewer Department staff are available to conduct inspections, respond to complaints and pursue enforcement actions, our air quality suffers. With 12.8M residents in PA, according to the American Lung Association, the following groups are at risk from PA's deficient air quality.

- 2,664,515 Under 18
- 2,279,687 65 & Older
- 236,638 Pediatric Asthma
- 1,030,416 Adult Asthma
- 679,963 COPD
- 8,209 Lung Cancer
- 1,047,502 CV Disease
- 1,071,921 Diabetes
- 1,548,557 Living in Poverty

*"Decreased program revenues will also impact the operation and maintenance of the Commonwealth's ambient air monitoring network".* Here in Wyoming County, the Department planned such a site here several years ago. It is still not developed. This is a concern. Wyoming County source points related to the natural gas industry continue to grow. The program has lost uncounted dollars since 2015; since the program could've had a better grip on the fiscal situation and proposed this change as early as 2016.

The last time certain permit fees were raised date as far back as 2005. It's time to get this done.

As one who has been challenged by severe uncontrolled asthma since 2013, I strongly urge that the Air Program be fully and sufficiently funded. Our breathing and the breath of many others depends on a good air program. While industry may look at air permits as a cost of doing business, this is our Constitutional right to clean air. The program must be adequately funded to operate effectively for business and protect our air quality. Permit fees must not be looked at as a price to pollute; they must be looked at as the price to provide Pennsylvania residents, young and older, healthy and not healthy with clean air. It's our guaranteed right. There's no price too high for clean air.

Several fees are being increased and new fees proposed. If this is anything like other DEP fees I've meticulously scrutinized in the past, it most likely falls short from what is needed before it is even implemented. Therefore, I support the proposed fees as minimum starting points. Ideally, they most likely need to be further increased to actually support the work and mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Air Program.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Krafjack". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Best Regards," text.

Emily Krafjack