



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; lversen, Sarah A.
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556).

Commenter Information:

Melissa McSwigan
 (melissamiller28@yahoo.com)
 4131 Bigelow Boulevard
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213 US

Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

The Board should seek the early feedback from public interest groups who speak up for the safety of the public and the environment. At a minimum, the Board should give comments from environmental and public interests groups significant consideration now, and their comments should be treated as an opportunity for further dialogue and contribution.

The Board should be revising these regulations to protect our wetlands and waterways and make it harder for industry to negatively impact them. Instead, the Board is making it easier for industry to get permits or evade the permitting process altogether by expanding the number of activities eligible for a waiver out of the permitting process. Because some of our waterbodies in Pennsylvania are so important or threatened, there should be no waivers allowed for activities in these waterbodies, no matter how small the stream size. The Board should reduce, not expand, the number of waivers granted, and should not allow any waivers for activities impacting EV, HQ, Class A, wild trout, or already impaired streams.

And the Board should reconsider its proposal to require a company seeking a permit for an industry activity that crosses multiple counties – like a pipeline –to submit only one application,

rather than needing to go to each county the activity touches. This will make it harder for the counties and their residents to learn about proposed industrial activities that might affect their waters and therefore make it harder for citizens to participate and have a voice in the process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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