



**Stephen Hoffman**

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; lversen, Sarah A.  
**Cc:** c-jflanaga@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:

Henry Berkowitz  
 (hlemc@verizon.net)  
 141 Sperry And Young Rd Sabinsville  
 Sabinsville, PA 16943 US

Comments entered:

Dear PA Environmental Quality Board,

I urge the Department of Environmental Protection to fully consider its mission to public health and the environment before finalizing its proposed revisions to Chapter 105, governing dams, water obstructions, and encroachments into aquatic resources.

The Department 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.

Second, the Department should also be revising these regulations to protect our wetlands and waterways and make it harder for industry to negatively impact them. Instead, the Department 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 Pennsylvania bodies of water are so important or threatened, there should be no waivers allowed for activities in these waterways, no matter how small the stream size. The Department

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.

Our nation, in fact the world, is finally realizing that we must put an end to our dependence on fossil fuels. Pipelines do not take us in that direction, but rather encourage the continued use of these dirty fuels. Consequently, these pipeline projects should not be made easier to advance. By making them harder we can eliminate many of the proposed pipeline projects which would leave us with the few that we may actually have a need for as we work to make them obsolete too.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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