

**Stephen Hoffman**

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:59 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-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

**CAUTION: \*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\*** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**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:

John D Lahr  
(johnlahr324@gmail.com)  
699 Martic Heights Dr  
Pequea, PA 17565 US

Comments entered:

Dear PA Environmental Quality Board,

To whom it may concern at DEP, Environmental Quality Board,

Wetlands, as you well know, are the breeding grounds for many of our amphibians, birds and mammals as well as plants specific only to that environment. Wetlands are nature's filter system, taking pollutants and excess storm water runoff and absorbing them so they do not impact our waterways and anything downstream such as the Chesapeake Bay. I am asking you to NOT weaken any regulations that would impact wetlands for these reasons as well as many more not listed. Specifically to Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterways Management (#7-556). I agree with and endorse the letter below as well.

Thank You for hearing and listening to my concerns as an Environmental Technician 2.

Sincerely,  
John D Lahr  
699 Martic Heights Drive  
Pequea, PA 17565

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

---

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

---

Jessica Shirley  
Director, Office of Policy  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
Fax: 717-783-8926  
ecomment@pa.gov