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Form Letter B 636-652

Stephen Hoffman

From: EP, RegComments <ra-epregcomments@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:31 AM
To: IRRC
Cc: EP, RegComments; Michelle Elliott
Subject: Final Count - Form Letter B - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)
Attachments: Form Letter B_Protect Wetlands (7-556).pdf

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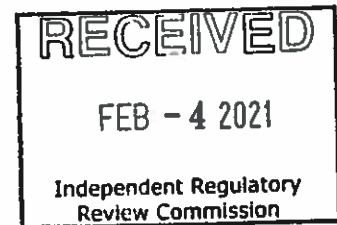
Good morning,

Attached is a form letter DEP received regarding Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556), labeled "Form Letter B: Protect Our Wetlands and Waterways."

We received a total of **652** copies of this letter via email.

Thank you,
Laura

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In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices will remain closed until restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, I will be working remotely to continue the mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and frequently retrieving emails. Thank you for your patience.

FORM LETTER B: "Protect Our Wetlands and Waterways"

Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,