



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; gking; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC  
**Cc:** c-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Exclusion for Identification and Listing Hazardous Waste at MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. Bulger & Yukon Facilities (#7-566)

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### Re: eComment System

**The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Exclusion for Identification and Listing Hazardous Waste at MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. Bulger & Yukon Facilities (#7-566).**

Commenter Information:

Diana Steck  
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 850 Linmore Drive  
 North Huntingdon, PA 15642 US

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Comments entered:

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proposed Rulemaking: Exclusion for Identification and Listing Hazardous Waste at MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc. Bulger & Yukon Facilities (#7-566)

My name is Diana Steck and my family lived within 1/2 mile from the Yukon Max Environmental facility for a number of years and we have friends currently living near the facility. I served as a community leader for Concerned Residents of the Yough and Pennsylvania Environmental network and am a current member of Mountain Watershed Organization.

I wish to express my concerns and opposition to the planned Rulemaking Exclusion for Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste at Max Environmental Technologies, Inc. (the company formerly known as Mill Service, Inc.)

I implore the EQB to deny the request by Max Environmental to reclassify the sludge generated at their facilities as "non hazardous". This action constitutes "linguistic de toxification". These wastes contain substances that are TOXIC and harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment.

The health effects posed by the cumulative effect of exposure to the people living in the area surrounding the Yukon and Bulger facilities is an unacceptable risk. What is not considered is the potential health issues caused by the "chemical soup" created by the mixing and disposal of these wastes mixing with the leachate from the previous disposal impoundments. Arsenic, lead, hexavalent chromium, benzene, hydrocarbons and more each alone cause a plethora of health effects- its unknown what kind of health problems that mixture causes and should be given consideration.

The waste streams contain materials that contain significant radioactive substances that pose significant health risks. Please consider the fact that there is legislation pending that would classify these wastes as hazardous - it would seem to me that being proactive and acting to impose greater safety precautions would be in the best interest of the residents of Yukon and Bulger.

Max Environmental has a horrific compliance history that exemplifies a blatant disregard for the laws and the people of this Commonwealth. Since 2009, over 110 violations have been filed against Max at both Yukon and Bulger facilities. Just a month ago, violations related to NPDES permit water discharge pollution resulted in a fine of \$28,500. In fact, Max was not in compliance with their water pollution permit limits for 94 days! last year! These violations are nothing new and have been ongoing since the site first opened in the 1960's. While you may disregard the pollution and violation history that occurred under their previous name, the pollution and exposure risks to the people living nearby to these facilities are cumulative and have contributed to health effects and deserve consideration. If anything, more stringent parameters and regulations should be applied to this known polluter.

MAX has demonstrated that they are not good neighbors or a law abiding company. They have failed to follow required waste testing procedures, hazardous waste containers have been found leaking and contaminating the ground, They have been caught accepting receiving and storing residual waste that was not permitted by DER for them to accept, containers of hazardous wastes were not closed properly and leachate monitoring and management has been improperly done. This company has demonstrated time and time again for decades that they cannot be trusted to comply with laws and regulations. They should not be rewarded for bad behavior by de listing their waste streams. Relying on a company who has failed to notify DEP of compliance violations to monitor their waste streams to ensure that "hazardous" limits are not exceeded is akin to putting the fox in charge of the hen house!

We are at a critical time in our world. Any and all means must be taken to preserve our planet. As members of the Environmental Quality Board you have both the opportunity and the responsibility to take actions to protect not only the environment but the public health of the people living nearby and downstream from these facilities. Please uphold Section 27 of the PA Constitution: The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment...As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people. I urge the EQB to Deny this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Steck

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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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