



Madison Brame

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 8:42 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Osenbach, Matt; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

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Re: eComment System

The Environmental Quality Board has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577).

Commenter Information:

Aimi Holmes
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Comments entered:

Before I begin, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read through my testimony.

My name is Aimi Holmes and I am currently a third-year student at Swarthmore College. Having grown up in a smaller town in the mountains of Idaho—constantly exploring the outdoors due to a love for nature—it can come as no surprise that I chose to pursue a degree in biology. With a special interest in environmental conservation, I have spent the past three years at Swarthmore, cultivating a love and appreciation for the greater Philly region. Swarthmore College is fortunate enough to be in close proximity to the Crum Woods—a beautiful, idyllic piece of land that hugs Crum Creek. Having been surrounded by such a fantastically managed area, I was shocked to learn of the long legacy of pollution plaguing Chester, a city not even 15 minutes away from me.

And that is exactly why I am reaching out today. I am writing this testimony to urge the DEP to amend the Triennial Review by creating uniformity in their water quality standards for the Delaware River. Currently, there is a 27-mile stretch running through Philadelphia that has been exempt from more protective water quality standards, including the section that runs through the city of Chester.

Over the years, the city of Chester has been the victim of intense air, land, and water pollution due to a long legacy of environmental racism. Residents of this area have been subject to some of the worst air quality conditions in the state of Pennsylvania, due to four incredibly hazardous waste treatment facilities. The health implications of these facilities are already severe for most of Chester's population, as these places are responsible for handling waste from the entire country. Why must we accelerate this issue by lowering water quality standards in the area as well?

During these past years, I've had the privilege of living in Swarthmore's bubble and could not believe the current state of the broader Chester area. Chester residents have been victims of environmental injustices for well over a decade and loopholes in water quality protections are doing nothing but worsening the issue. Everyone deserves access to clean water to drink and recreate on and this includes the residents of Chester and everyone living along this 27-mile stretch of the Delaware.

I once again urge the DEP to reconsider all exemptions that keep this section of the river from getting 'primary contact' levels of protection and to apply these standards to all sections of the Delaware River.

Thank you again for taking the time to review my testimony, it is greatly appreciated.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ezra Thrush

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