

VIRGINIA A. HOHENBERGER
1242 SURREY ROAD
WEST CHESTER, PA
19382-8436

ORIGINAL: #1799
COPIES: NONE
(PER JHJ)

STANDARD MAIL

May 13, 1997

EQB

PO Box 8465

Harrisburg PA 17105

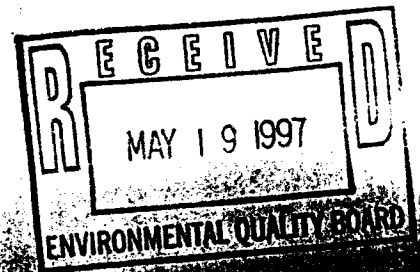
Dear EQB;

Please reject the DEP's anti-degradation proposal

Reply requested.

Sincerely,

Virginia A. Hohenberger



148 Simbio Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

April 24, 1997

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(PER CAT)

Environmental Quality Board

DEP

PO Box 8465


Harrisburg, PA 17105

To whom it may concern,

Please follow the Clean Water Act to improve the quality of
our water, by accepting the simpler better standards of the
EPA.

DO NOT accept the current DEP anti-degradation proposal.

Sincerely,



Judy McFarland

07 MAY 1987 AM 9:50

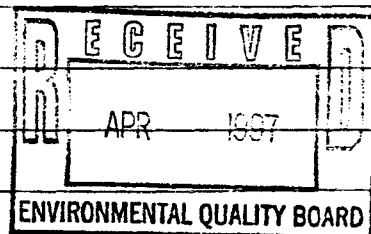
ROBERT C. [unclear]

To Whom It May Concern,

The Clean Water Act
Requires States To Protect
Waterways From Further Degradation
The D.E.P Is Proposing New
Regulations That Would Lower
Water Quality Standards. Please
Reject The D.E.P's Current Anti-
Degradation Proposal.

Please Reply And Tell Me
What You Plan To Do About
D.E.P.'s Proposal

Judy Zielinski
103 S. 9th St.
Quakertown, Pa. 18951



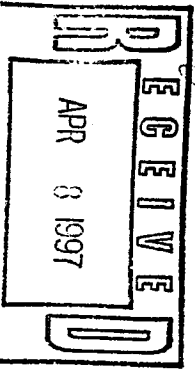
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APR 11 10 5:10

RECEIVED

136 Sullivan
Wayne Co 19087
Environmental Qual. Bd.
DEP, P.O. Box 8465
Hwy. Rn 17105

Please refer DEP's anti-
degradation proposal and
state to adopt a better standard
of the ERA
I would appreciate a
reply



Spice Truck
Anthony Lewis

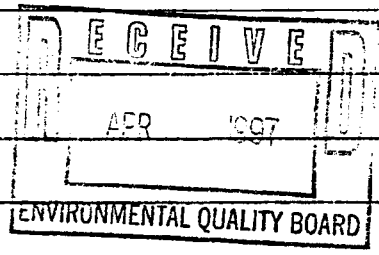
97 MAR 12 10:51

Environmental Quality Board

REVIEW COPY

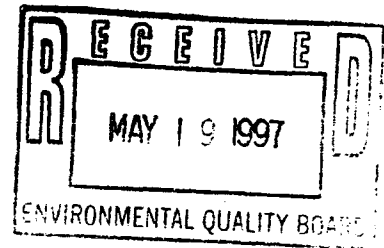
Reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal

*Ken
Spivak*



May 12, 1997

Mr James M. Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101-8477



Dear Mr. Seif:

I was disappointed to read the antidegradation policy being proposed for Pennsylvania. Actually, this proposal seems to be less protective than the federal guidelines that are currently in place.

Specifically, existing uses, such as endangered species, aren't protected adequately in Tier 1, High Quality water protection is made too difficult to qualify for and is inappropriately restricted to discharges in Tier 2, and there is no integration with the wetlands protection program anywhere in the proposal. Most seriously, I am concerned that removing High Quality as a protected water use will allow more pollution of our waters.

I urge DEP to amend this proposal to protect existing uses more strongly, change qualification for High Quality waters to involve either a chemistry test or a biology test rather than both, apply High Quality protection to activities rather than just discharges, maintain High Quality as a "protected water use", refuse general permits for High Quality waters, and integrate protection with the wetlands protection program to provide the best antidegradation protection for our wetlands. Finally, local governments or residents shouldn't be able to veto state designations (though their input should of course be considered).

If these changes are not made, I will oppose this proposal in favor of the existing federal regulations, which seem to offer a better standard of protection.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Redish".

Laura Redish

5628 Phillips Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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(PER JHJ)

May 12, 1997


Environmental Quality Board
Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

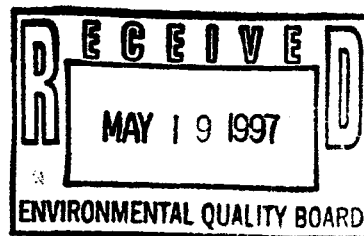
Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to let you know of my concern of water pollution in Pennsylvania. I am opposed to the proposed legislation which would lower the water quality standards in the State and ask you to reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal.

Please consider my concerns in addressing this issue.

Best regards,


LaVerne Krueger
193 Cambridge Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406



To whom it may concern,
I implore you to
reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal.
We need standards
that protect our waterways.
I would appreciate
your reply.

Sincerely,
Mrs. L. Mastropietro
236 Radcliffe Rd.
Wayne, Pa.
19087

EQB

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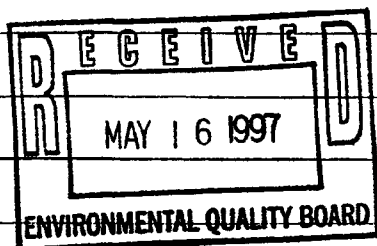
May 12, 1997

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to suggest that you reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal. I am strongly against lowering water-quality standards. I hope you will adopt the EPA standards.

I would appreciate the favor of a reply. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Lisa M. Occhioloni
Lisa M. Occhioloni
408 North Gate Rd
King of Prussia PA
19406

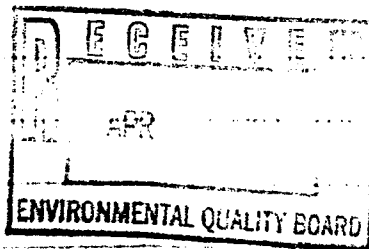


STAMP 12 01 9-85

RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern

Please reject the
D.E.P.'s current anti-
degradation proposal. Please
consider the simpler,
better standards of the E.P.A.
I like clean water, don't
you?

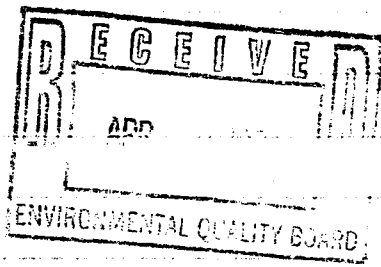


Louis J. Genna
105 Manor Rd.
Paoli, Pa. 19301

97 WEST ...
REVIEW ...

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal.
Adopt the simpler better
standards of the EPA
A reply requested.

Serrano Serrano
275 Radcliffe Rd
Hayward, CA 94542



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STAMPED IN 9:58
MAY 1997

225 Erie Avenue
Quakertown, PA 18951
April 22, 1997

Environmental Quality Board
DEP
PO Box Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Hello:

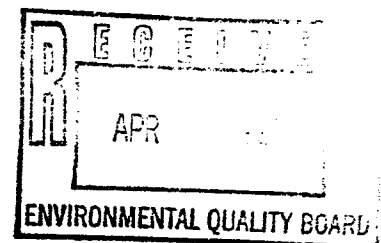
I am writing to register my objection to the lowering of water quality standards by allowing any additional discharges into Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. Please reject the current DEP anti-degradation proposal and adopt the standards of the EPA.

My grandchildren deserve clean water!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Williams

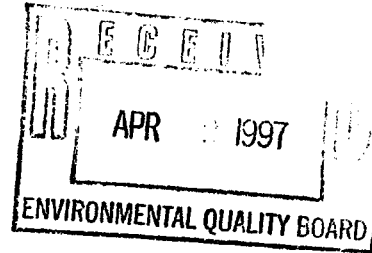
Marilyn Williams



MARION M. KYDE
The Tulgey Wood 15 Tankhannen Road
Ottsville, Pa. 18942

COPIES: COCCODRILLI
TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

Edward R. Brezina
Bureau of Watershed Conservation
P.O.Box 8555
Harrisburg, PA. 171055-8555



97 APR 28 PM 1:13
RECEIVED PA DEP
OF W D ASSESS & STDS

RE: Proposed Antidegradation Regulations

Dear Mr. Brezina;

Your proposed antidegradation regulations not only do not measure up to the federal water quality standards, but also contain paragraph after paragraph of doublespeak which, while ostensibly promulgating protective regulations, effectively permit contamination and degradation of our streams at the whim of business and development interests. The draft proposal essentially ignores all interests other than those of anticipated polluters.

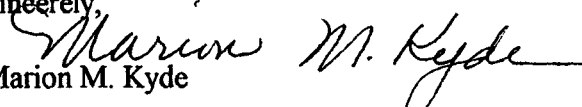
While it is clear that the present administration means Pennsylvania to be extremely hospitable to business and industrial interests, that hospitality must also extend to those who will staff the businesses and work in the factories - and that means assuring them pure water to drink, clean non-toxic streams running through their communities and recreational opportunities based on uncontaminated wetlands and natural riparian habitats.

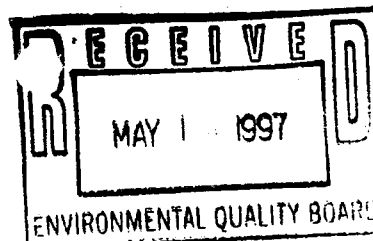
Specifically;

1. The regulations should return High Quality and Exceptional Value as "use" categories.
2. Tier 3 streams should maintain absolute protection from all discharges; in determining tier 3 weight should be given to features other than chemical and biological tests, i.e. endangered species, historic features, scenic values etc., as in the old regulations.
3. No General Permits should be permitted in HQ streams; any potential polluter should have to prove that his need is greater than the public interest in water quality.
4. The 25% degradation allowance without reference to any overriding SEJ's has no basis in federal regulation and does not serve the presumed purpose of these regulations, that is, to protect state waters.
5. Language pertaining to non-point source pollution is inadequate in the proposed regulations. Entire watersheds rather than merely surface waters should be extended legal protection, and not only from direct discharge, but from all activities likely to affect the quality of the waters within them.

These few observations do not begin to address that faults and failures of the legislation you are proposing. The proposed regs do not meet minimal federal requirements, do not protect the environment, and do not reflect the concerns and interests of most Pennsylvanians. You need to go back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,


Marion M. Kyde



Marquette SAVINGS BANK

CHARTERED IN 1908

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16501

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May 12, 1997

Mr. James Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

I herewith provide my comments on the DEP's proposed water quality antidegradation regulations.

I believe DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as 'generally better than' standards. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds the federal standards. The current proposal allows for judgment calls by the department which will lead to many problems.

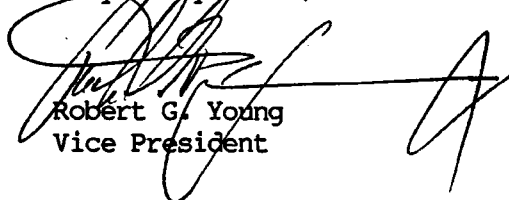
Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Presently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that probably never qualify under the federal program.

I support DEP's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal and the provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact. I also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

I do however believe that DEP should expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional waters. Also, notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

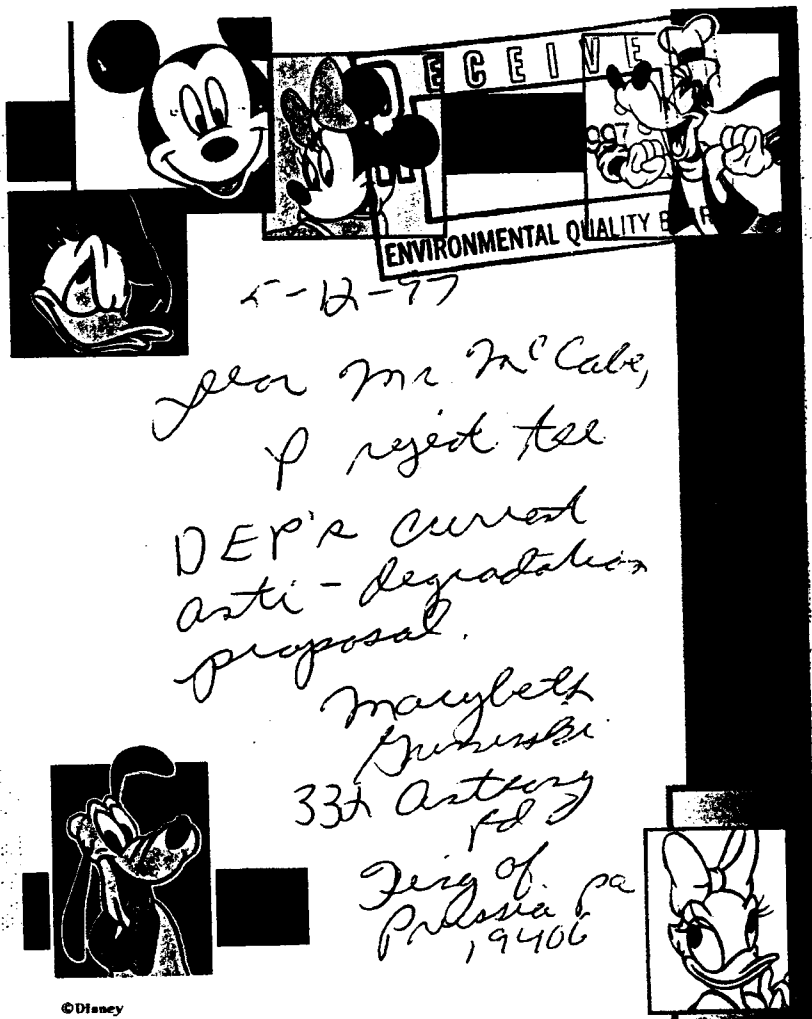
Thank you for your time and consideration to these comments.

Very Truly Yours,


Robert G. Young
Vice President

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(PER JHJ)

STREET ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP



5-12-77

Dear Mr. McCabe,
I reject the

DEP's current
anti-degradation
proposal.

Marybeth
Krusinski
337 Anthony
rd

King of
Palms pa
19406

©Disney

9710047 11 01 00



To Whom It May Concern

I am writing you this evening to express my concerns about the DEP proposed new regulations regarding the degradation of our water. This resource is vital - keeping it pure protects all of us. I urge you to reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal and to adopt the simpler, better standards of the EPA.

I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns. My address

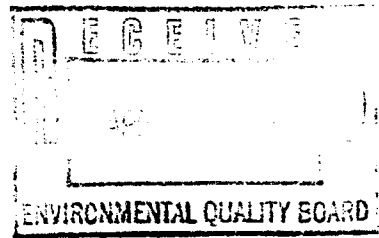
MARY BOUNKALID
551 PEBL
PITTSBURGH



ORIGINAL: #1799
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(PER CAT)

I am writing in opposition
to DEP's current anti-degradation
proposal.

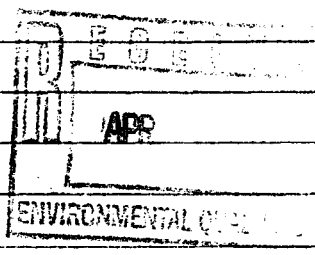
Sincerely,
Maureen Homewood



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION

I strongly oppose the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal. Please cast any
votes against this.

Mill King



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(PER CAT)

07 MAY 1981 9:51

Reject The Deps Current
ANTI-DEGRADATION PROPOSAL

APR 27 1981
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

LEHIGH VALLEY AOC PA 18103

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Phillip
1228 Fretz Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

EOB
DEP, PO BOX 8
HARRISBURG PA



Neal Colligan

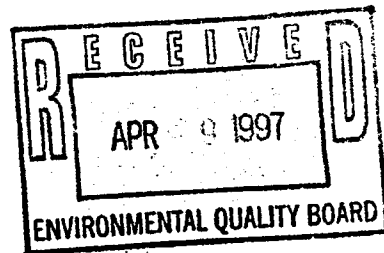
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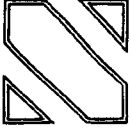
To Whom it May Concern,

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal.

Sincerely,

Neal Colligan





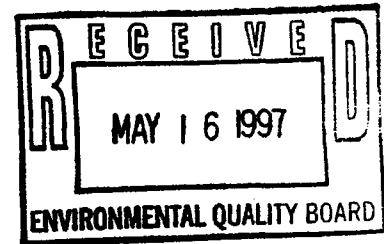
NOLEN COMPANIES

ARCHITECTS
ENGINEERS
BUILDERS
DEVELOPERS

ORIGINAL: #1799
COPIES: NONE
(PER JHJ)

May 12, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which required the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.


The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value water. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittee, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planing or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

Mr. James Seif
May 13, 1997
Page 2

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,
NOLEN COMPANIES, INC.



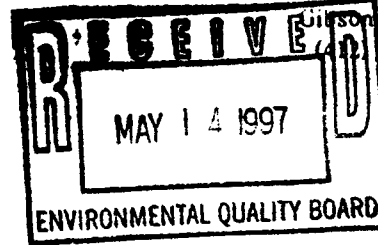
Paul J. Finley
Vice President

PJF/de
misc/letter/seif

NORMAN E. WHITE & ASSOCIATES
Land Technologists and Engineers

May 12, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



5476 Route 8 & Cook Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17044
717-644-0400 or 443-0400

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Dear Secretary Seif:

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Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman E. White". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end. It is written over the typed name of the signatory.

Norman E. White, P.E.

veqb101

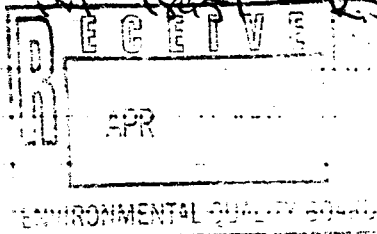
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07 MAY 12 10:50

EQB

Reject the DEP's current
Anti-degradation Proposal

Thomas & Morris 412 E. Broad St
A-lan ~~1984~~ DSVP.



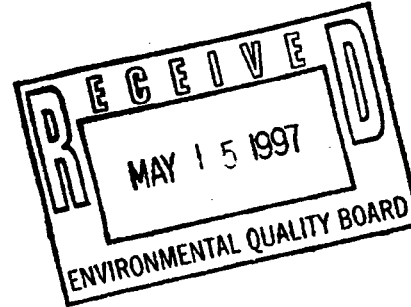


274 W. Lancaster Avenue • Suite 200 • Malvern, PA 19355 • (610) 647-4700

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May 12, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulation to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulation. In several instances, Pennsylvania's programs exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water must "exceed" standard rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment call by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

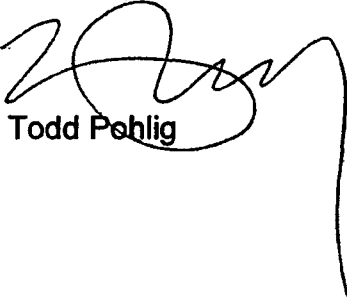
The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years. **Also, because of the potential land value impact that a stream redesignation might impose, I feel notice should be sent to all property owners alerting them to the potential change in value.** This could be effected through the township.

Mr. James Seif
May 12, 1997
Page 2

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Pohlig", with a long, thin vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Todd Pohlig

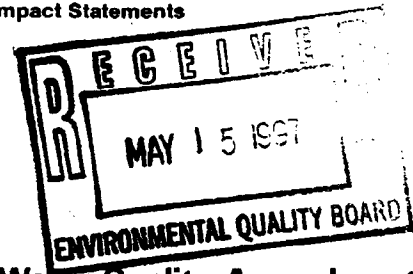
SCHMID & COMPANY INC., CONSULTING ECOLOGISTS
1201 CEDAR GROVE ROAD, MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19063-1044
Telephone: (610) 356-1416 FAX: (610) 356-3629

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TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

Environmental Inventories
Wetlands Mapping & Restoration
Expert Testimony

Permit Coordination
Environmental Assessments
Impact Statements

12 May 1997



James M. Seif, Chairperson
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

In re: Comments on Proposed Antidegradation Water Quality Amendments

Dear Mr. Seif:

This letter provides comments on the EQB's proposed amendments to Chapters 92, 93, and 95, as published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* (Vol. 27, No. 12, 22 March 1997, pages 1459 through 1468). The proposed amendment would consolidate the antidegradation requirements in the water quality standards of the Chapter 93 regulations. These comments are based on my nearly 20 years experience as a private-sector, environmental consultant in Pennsylvania, and they have been prepared as a public service, not on behalf of any client.

Overall, I believe that the proposed amendment for the antidegradation standards would be less protective of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth than existing federal requirements. I recommend that the proposal as written be rejected, that it be revised significantly, and that it then be republished as a new proposal in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for public review and comment. My specific comments follow.

1) The restriction on the use of general NPDES permits in HQ Waters [92.81] should not be changed. General Permits receive no meaningful review by DEP, and they involve no requirement that a discharger prove that its need to discharge is greater than the degradation of the water quality. Both EV and HQ Waters should remain fully protected from NPDES discharges.

2) The term "waters" should be changed throughout the text of this amendment to "surface waters". The new definition for "surface waters" [93.1] is helpful in linking the antidegradation standards to wetlands, springs, seeps, and other waterbodies. However, the term "waters" has not been replaced with the new term "surface waters" throughout the proposed amendment, creating a loophole for those who would exploit it. As an illustration, the four (i through iv) examples given in the definition of EV Waters should specify "surface waters",

but they refer simply to "waters" or "other waters". Unless the term "waters" is specifically changed throughout the text of this amendment to "surface waters", implementation of these standards and the associated protection it purports to extend to other water resources such as wetlands simply will not happen.

3) EV Waters and HQ Waters should not be eliminated as "protected water uses" [93.3]. Protection of existing uses is important because it preserves the best use of a stream. Eliminating "protected water uses" would remove EPA oversight from any proposed changes in designation. EPA oversight provides some measure of balance in ensuring that the designation of uses remains independent of local political considerations.

4) The antidegradation standards should apply not only to "discharges" but to any "activities" which may adversely affect water quality or aquatic habitat. The phrase *discharges to "waters" ...* should be replaced with the phrase *discharges to, or other activities in, "surface waters" ...* throughout the amendment.

5) Surface waters should not have to pass both a chemistry test and a biology test to qualify as HQ Waters [93.4b and 93.4c]. Such a process would not always be appropriate, and it would make qualification more difficult (and thus protect fewer waters) than under federal requirements. In many cases it would be more appropriate to evaluate some surface waters, such as wetlands, by a biology rather than a chemistry test. In accordance with the recommendation outlined in the final report of the Conservation stakeholders group, surface waters should be allowed to qualify on either a chemistry or a biology test, but not both. Furthermore, the scores needed to pass either test should not be set so unreasonably high that existing HQ or EV waters would not qualify.

6) The special provisions for "minimal impact" discharges should not be adopted [93.4b(f)]. Long-term maintenance and protection of water quality cannot be assured if up to 25% of the assimilative capacity of a stream is allowed to be usurped. Likewise, a special provision for discharges that qualify for general permits offers only the illusion of protection because such discharges receive no technical review to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permits.

7) The proposed amendment should not limit the number of ways that a surface water can qualify as EV [93.4c]. The qualification criteria do not as clearly reflect the definition of EV Waters as the language in the Special Protection Waters Implementation Handbook,

which should be incorporated into the qualification language. Besides chemical and biological factors, situational and locational criteria should be added, such as the existence of endangered species or its location within specific public lands.

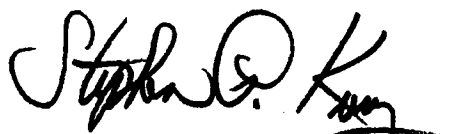
8) The proposed amendment should elaborate on how the quality of EV Waters is to be "maintained and protected". Over time, degradation of surface waters is likely to occur as a result of discharges allowed by DEP because they individually result in "no measurable change". This outcome is contrary to the protection sought by EPA and expected by the citizens of the Commonwealth.

9) Dischargers should be required to demonstrate that environmentally sound alternatives are cost-prohibitive, not simply that they are not cost-effective [93.4d(a)]. Some dischargers may have an unrealistically narrow range for what they might consider "cost-effective", because the term is too subjective. Requiring dischargers to demonstrate that environmentally sound alternatives or best available technology would clearly be cost-prohibitive would be less subjective, and thus more appropriate.

10) The proposed language for Nonpoint Sources [93.4d(b)] is too vague; more-specific language should be used. The existing federal language regarding nonpoint sources for Tier 2 streams should be adopted. Such language states that all required nonpoint source controls be in place before allowing any further degradation. In addition, all new discharges should be specifically evaluated in terms of any "programs" the Department may implement or "practices" the Department may promote regarding nonpoint source pollution control.

In summary, the proposed amendment for antidegradation standards appears to contain provisions that are less protective of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth than federal requirements. The proposal should be revised and then resubmitted for public review and comment before final adoption. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,



Stephen P. Kunz
Certified Ecologist (ESA)

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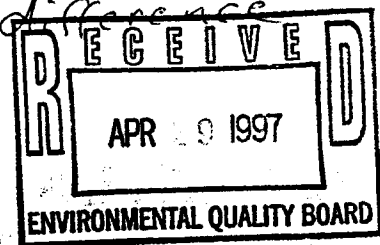
Dear MA Chairman

Reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal.
The decisions you make
today will effect the quality
of the environment we leave
to our children and grand-
children. Pollution is more
costly to remove than to
prevent.

Please reply to my
concerns

SUSAN RAEZER
25 Braithwaite
Quakertown PA
18951

Thank you for helping
us make a difference



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COPIES: COCCODRILLI
TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

Frank Ertz
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harrisstown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

97 MAY 12 AM 9:32
MAIL ROOM

Dear Mr. Ertz,

The Clean Water Act requires states to protect waterways from further degradation. The regulations proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection will lower water quality standards by allowing additional discharges into our streams and waterways. As parents of a young child and voting citizens of this state, we find this unacceptable. We also find it hard to believe that an agency that is supposed to protect the environment is submitting such a proposal. We hope you will reject this proposal and request a response to this letter.

Thank-you
Sincerely,
Steven and Amanda Melones
422 Eisenbrown Street
Reading, Pa 19605

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(PER CAT)

97 MAY 16 10 34 AM

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GENERAL INVESTIGATION

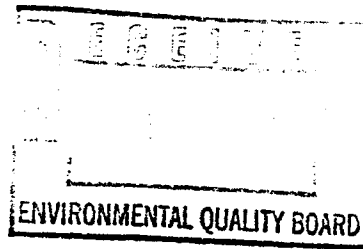
— Dr. Susan Howard

1027 Valley Forge Rd
#506
Devon, PA
19333-
1184

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very concerned
with the quality of our environment
Please reject the DEP's
current anti-degradation
proposal. Please reply.
Adopt the EPA standards.

Susan Howard, Ph.D.



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(PER CAT)

Scott Chaney
1208 West 8th St
Wilmington, DE 19806-4608

STILL IN THE AIR 9:57

Environmental Quality Board
DEP
POB 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

New Proposal/Water Quality Rules

Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter to be my protest against the subject!

I am not all satisfied with the continued effort on the part of DEP to avoid reasonable protection for Pennsylvania waters. The persons operating as the state's representatives are still applying dilatory tactics which have TWICE within memory resulted in litigation which found DEP at fault and the EPA forced to step in.

And now the new proposal is, for all intents and purposes, worse! Such as:

HQ and EV need to stay as protected water uses, so that our best streams will not be downgraded;

Contrary to Federal regs no weight is given to public lands in the selection process;

Another loophole - allows discharge and degradation in EV waters;

There is no integration of wetlands protection with antidegradation;

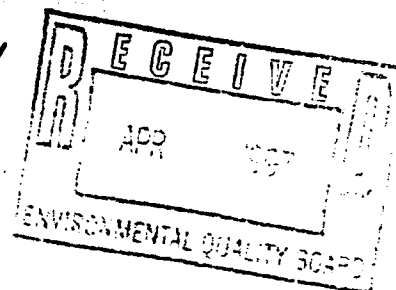
Waters not yet assessed are protected at the lowest level. How long are they expected to last under these conditions..

This proposal is loaded with items which are damaging to the environment. It should not be given any credence in its present form - these regulations should be rejected!!

I am asking that my feelings be conveyed to the members of the board. Thank you.

Yours truly,


Scott Chaney



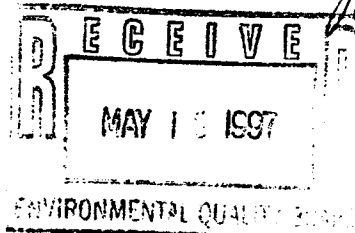
210 Colmer Dr.
King of Prussia, PA 19406
May 12, 1997

E.Q.B.

I am writing to you as a
concerned citizen of Montgomery
County - I am urging the
rejection of the DEP's current
anti degradation proposal +
the adoption of the better standards
of the EPA. Pennsylvania
needs CLEAN WATER !!

I will keep watch + vote
accordingly -

Please adopt proper measures -



Respectfully -

Rose May R

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DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HARRISBURG, PA 17105

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
P.O. BOX 8465
HARRISBURG, PA 17105

RE: WATER QUALITY RULES PROPOSAL

E.Q. BOARD:

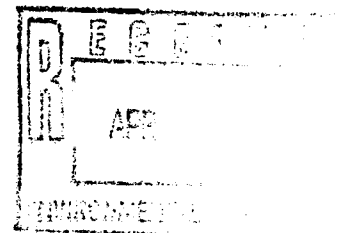
I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OUTRAGE AT THE NEW PROPOSALS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY RULES. TWICE IN THE RECENT PAST, DEP ATTEMPTED SIMILAR RULES CHANGES THAT RESULTED IN COURT DECISIONS AGAINST DEP FORCING EPA TO STEP IN. AGAIN, DEP IS MOVING CONTRARY TO FEDERAL STANDARDS WITH THIS CURRENT ATTEMPT TO DOWN GRADE OUR WATERS. PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL WILL SURELY LEAD TO MORE LITIGATION AND FURTHER FEDERAL ACTION AGAINST DEP.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF US FISH & WILDLIFE HAS SAID THAT "DEP HAS PICKED ALL THE WORST POSITIONS" WITH THIS NEW PROPOSAL. THIS PROPOSAL IS CONTRARY TO FEDERAL STANDARDS IN NO FEWER THAN SIX INSTANCES, INCLUDING THE DISREGARD OF WATERS ON PUBLIC LANDS IN THE " SELECTION CRITERIA". THIS WOULD ALLOW PRIVATE INTERESTS TO SUPERCEDE THE PUBLIC TRUST THAT DEP IS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT DEP IS UNABLE TO FULFILL IT'S RAISON D'ETRE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. RATHER THAN THIS SORT OF KOWTOWING TO PRIVATE INTERESTS, DEP SHOULD FOLLOW WHAT THEIR BOSS, GOVENOR RIDGE, HAS SAID REGARDING OUR STATE'S ENVIRONMENT, "PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE A GOOD STEWARD AND PRACTICE SOUND CONSERVATION. PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES PRESERVES OUR LANDS AND WATERS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE."

TRUELY,

Stephen J. Swider
402 W. Warren St.
Norristown, Pa 19401



May 12, 1997

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

DEP

PO Box 8465

Harrisburg, PA 17105

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(PER JHJ)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

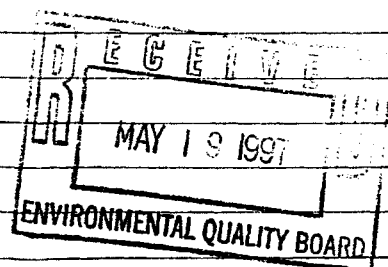
Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal and adopt
the simpler better standards of the
EPA.

Thank you.

Patricia Ritter

231 Colmar Dr

King of Prussia, PA 19406



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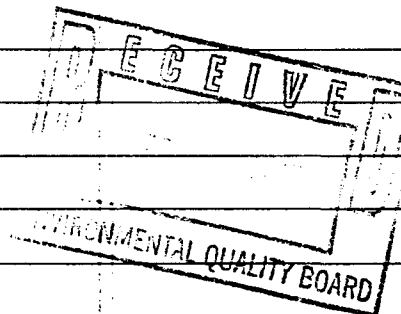
524 Glen Arden Drive
Pittsburgh, PA. 15208
April 23, 1997

Dear Sirs:

I am very concerned about the threat to our clean water that would emerge if the new regulations that DEP is proposing are adopted. The proposal would allow additional discharges into our best streams and would diminish many streams from qualifying for strong protection. Please adopt the simpler, better standards of the EPA.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Dr. Tristram-Naife



07 MAY 27 09 06 AM

May 15, 1997
The Environmental Quality Board
Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 8100
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Participation in the Reduced Water Quality Standards
Dear Sir Madam:

Though I am sure, it is outrageous that DEP is processing
regulations that will lower water quality standards.

We need STRONGER protection and we need STRONGER
enforcement laws.

We should not allow any discharges into any water bodies or
water systems, NONE. There should certainly be no
permitting of any discharges into Exceptional Value, High
Quality or undesignated streams.

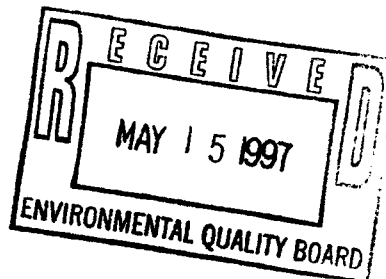
Please phase out all permitted discharges and all other
discharges. Please protect all streams at current levels
until all permits and all discharges are phased out. Make a
five year time limit for all phase outs. Protect all
waters.

Zero Discharge is mandated in the Clean Water Act. That
should be the goal of Rachel Carson's home state.

Save the tax payer's money. Just say NO to DEP's newest
pollution plan.

Thank you.
Tina Daly
Tina Daly
1350 Pickering Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

cc: Michael McCabe, EPA
Senator Gerlach
Representative Rubley
Clean Water Action



27 APR 12 11 04 AM
HARRISBURG, PA 17105

8212 Cadwalader Avenue
Elkins Park, PA 19027
April 22, 1997

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Environmental Quality Board
DEP
P.O.Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: DEP Anti-degradation proposal

Dear Board Members:

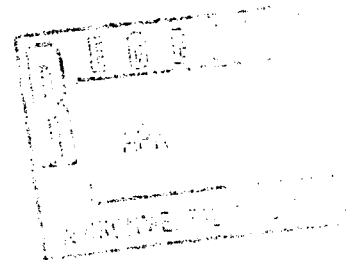
As a citizen who is concerned about the environment, I am troubled by the current DEP anti-degradation proposal which doesn't go far enough to protect the environment. I am hopeful that you will consider the alternative --and much more stringent-- standards of the EPA.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter and request a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Violet Shenkman



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MAY 13 1997

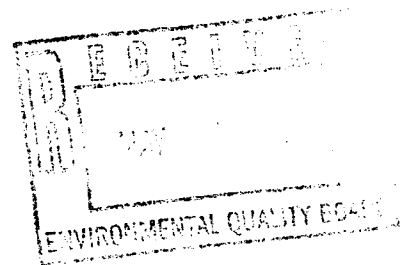
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing concerning
the current debate on the
EPA Degradation issue. As a citizen
of Pennsylvania it is important to me
to have clean & safe waterways.
Please do not allow water proposals
to be lessened.

Thank You
Amy Smith
12042 Oakridge Dr.
Wexford PA, 15096

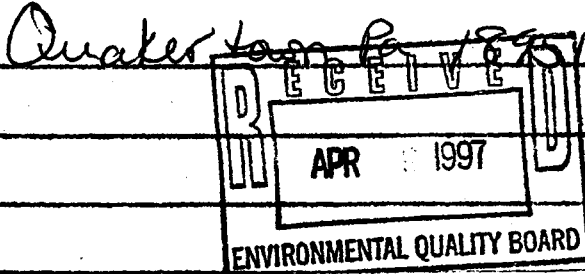


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To whom it may concern,
Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradative proposal, & adopt the simpler,
better standards of the EPA. We have a
right to have clean air & water, & a clean
environment for our future. Please R.S.V.P. to
William Mihalyak

411 Erie Ave

Thank-you
William Mihalyak



APR 12 11 56

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

TO: The Environmental Quality Board

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal. We cannot afford
to rollback standards for our waterways. Adopt the
standards of the EPA.
Please respond

Carolyn Murray
125 S. Graham #20
Pgh PA 15202

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Carl E. Dusinger
1433 Gary Terrace, West Chester, PA 19380

610/692-2930

97 MAY 27 11 30 AM

MAIL ROOM

May 13, 1997

Environmental Quality Board
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8465
Harrisburg PA 17105

New Proposal/Water Quality Rules

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter to be my protest against the subject!

I am not at all satisfied with the continued effort on the part of DEP to avoid reasonable protection for Pennsylvania waters. The persons operating as the state's representatives are still applying the dilatory tactics which have twice within memory resulted in litigation which found the DEP at fault and the EPA forced to step in.

And now the new proposal is, for all intents and purposes, worse! Such as:

HQ and EV need to stay as protected water uses, so that our best streams will not be downgraded;

Contrary to Federal regs no weight is given to public lands in the selection process;

Another loophole — allows discharges and degradation in EV waters; if it is exceptional — no new discharges;

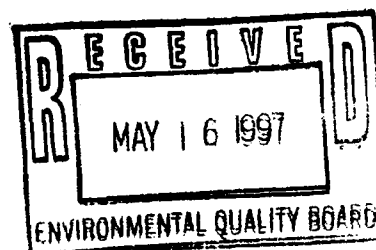
There is no integration of wetlands protection with antidegradation;

Waters not yet assessed are protected at the lowest level. How long are they expected to last under these conditions.

This proposal is loaded with items which are damaging to the environment. It should not be given any credence in its present form — these regulations should be rejected!

I am asking that my feelings be conveyed to the members of the Board. Thank you.

Yours truly,



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Barry M. Sullivan
1816 Silver Pine Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
16th Floor, Rachel Carson Building
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Proposed Antidegradation Regulations (Revisions to PA Code Chapters 92,
93, and 95 published on January 21, 1997)

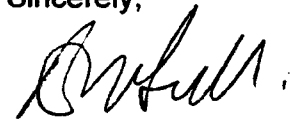
Dear Mr. Seif:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new antidegradation regulations for Pennsylvania. The proposal weakens the protections that exist under the current regulations promulgated for Pennsylvania by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and does not ensure this state's highest quality waters will not be degraded.

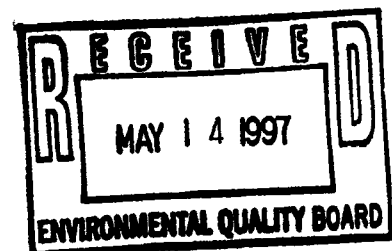
I am a member of Trout Unlimited and am deeply concerned about the preservation of the high quality of the many outstanding trout streams in Pennsylvania. Water quality protection must be a high priority.

Further, I endorse the comments issued by Pennsylvania Trout on the regulations pointing out their specific shortcomings.

Sincerely,



Barry M. Sullivan



patrout 05/13/97



1411 NORTH ATHERTON STREET, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16803 • PHONE 231-8813 FAX 231-2195

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and our comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

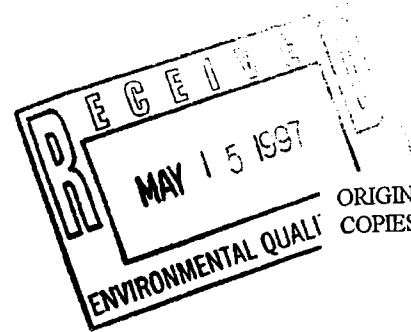
The Builders Association of Central Pennsylvania supports the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Judy L. Mitchell
Executive Officer



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TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
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REVIEW COMMISSION

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Environmental Quality Board
Dep, PO Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105.

To whom it may concern:

Reject the current anti-degradation proposals
of the DEP - they are clearly inadequate and
would lower existing standards. Instead, adopt
the EPA standards. Please respond to me.

Andrew Kozloski
Andy Kozloski
214 Clayton Ave.
Hamburg, PA 19526

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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Environmental Quality Board -

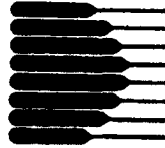
Please protect our waterways
from further degradation. We do
not reject the DEP's current anti-degradation
proposal.

Thank-you,

Annelle Weakley
29 Stanchurst Ct
Wayne PA 19087

4-21-97

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(PER JHJ)



DeLUCA ENTERPRISES, INC.

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

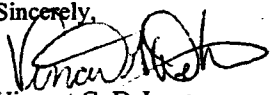
Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

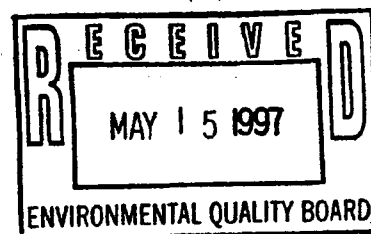
The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,


Vincent G. DeLuca
Vice President



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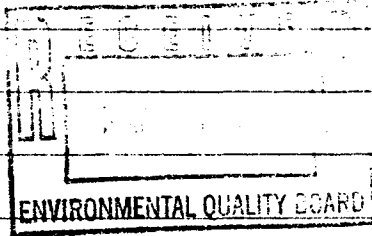
MAY 13 1997

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board, DEP, PO Box 8465, Harrisburg PA 17105

Reject the anti-degradation proposal. The name is very misleading.
Please respond. I am at 3853 Beechwood Blvd, Pittsburgh PA, 15217.
My name is David Duray.



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(PER JHJ)

CURTIN WINSOR RECEIVED
P. O. Box 671 97 MAY 15 AM 9: 58
Ardmore, PA 19003-0671 ENV. PROTECTION
610-642-5598 SECRETARY'S OFFICE

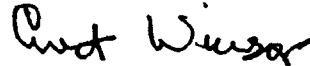
May 13, 1997

James Seif, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Jim:

The Pa. Bulletin issue of March 22nd shows that DEP's proposed anti-degradation regulations will not provide Tier 2 protection level to unassessed streams. It should protect them. The Department proposed to assess only half of these streams, a process that will require years to accomplish. This proposal is unrealistic. I also urge DEP to raise the language in the regulations on non point source pollution to that used currently for High Quality Streams.

Best regards, Jim,



Curtin Winsor
Past President, Pa. Environmental Council

CW/ld



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MAY 13 1997

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Environmental Quality Board
DEP PO BOX 8465, Harrisburg Pa 17105

Dear EQB,

Please reject the DEP's
current anti-degradation proposal.
It is very important that we keep
Pennsylvania's water clean!!!

Thank you

Danny Sullivan

150 Chaney Ct

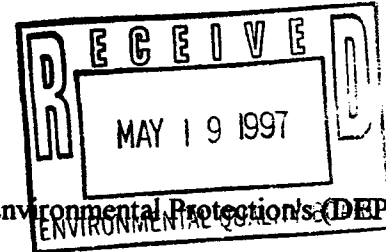
New Kensington Pa 15068

P.S. Please reply to my letter.

HALLMARK, INC.

May 13, 1997

Mr., James Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif:

Please accept this letter as my comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations.

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in these proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Carpenter
Vice President

Quality Builders of New Homes
RR 1 Box 109 B Mayport, PA 16240

May 13, 1997

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COPIES: NONE
(PER JHJ)

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

DEP, Po Box 8465

Harrisburg, Pa., 17105

To Whom It May Concern:

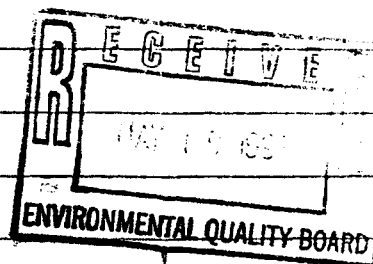
It is my understanding that the DEP is proposing new regulations that would lower water quality standards, and would allow additional discharges into our best streams and would eliminate many streams from qualifying for strong protection. We need standards that protect our waterways from any more degradation.

Sincerely,
Denise Amer

Denise Amer

Po Box 72

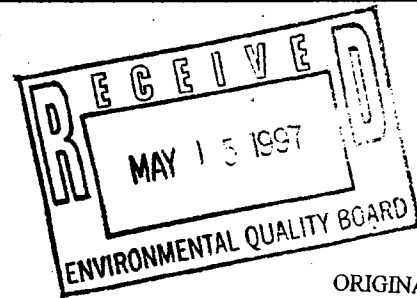
Fountainville, Pa., 18923



GRANOR PRICE HOMES

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



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Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

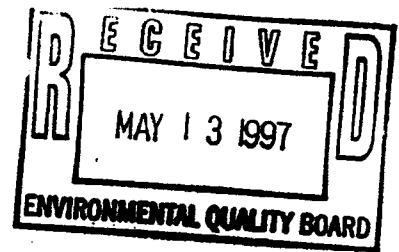
Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Stuart E. Price, Partner

Granor Price Office Center • 721 Dresher Road • Horsham, PA 19044
TEL: (215) 830-1100 • FAX: (215) 830-8599

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: 13-May-1997 03:43pm EST
From: WSR OULSTON
WSROULSTON@aol.com@PMDF@DER003
Dept:
Tel No:

TO: RegComments (RegComments@a1.dep.state.pa.us@PMDF@

Subject: Proposed Antidegradation Regulations

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=unknown-8bit
Content-transfer-encoding: QUOTED-PRINTABLE

Gentlemen:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new antidegradation regulations for Pennsylvania (Revisions to PA Code Chapters 92, 93 and 95= published January 21, 1997). The proposal weakens the protections that exist under the current regulations promulgated for Pennsylvania by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and does not ensure that this states highest quality waters will not be degraded.

As a member of the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I am acutely aware= of the ecological damage that can be done by any degradation of water quality. Pennsylvania is home to many outstanding trout streams that attract anglers from all over the world. These waters and their fisheries are threatened = from a variety of sources, including coal mining and its after effects, increased development, polluted run-off and industrial pollution. These sources are= so pervasive and diverse that unless we make protecting high water quality a= top priority, we will lose it.

I was born in and grew up in Pennsylvania. I moved away in 1972 and lived= in 3 other states over the next 22 years. When the opportunity came to return to Pennsylvania, I was somewhat hesitant, since my memories and impressions = from pre 1972 were very disconcerting from an environmental perspective. However, much to my surprise, I could hardly believe the improvements made to the

environment in general and to the streams in particular. I have been enjoying immensely my reacquaintance with Pennsylvania's trout streams since returning to the state in 1994. Obviously much of this change is due to the Clean Water Act and a lot of hard work by organizations such as Trout Unlimited. I have absolutely no desire to see Pennsylvania's water quality backslide to where it was when I was a child.

I understand that Pennsylvania Trout (Trout Unlimited's PA Council) is submitting comments on the regulations pointing out their specific shortcomings. The proposed regulations should not be adopted unless all of the problems pointed out in those comments from PA Trout are fixed. The existing regulations are vastly preferable to the new proposal as it is now written.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Roulston
1150 South Lefever Drive
Lititz, PA 17543

Felicia Sam HERMAN
810 Kerr St
P64 PA 15220

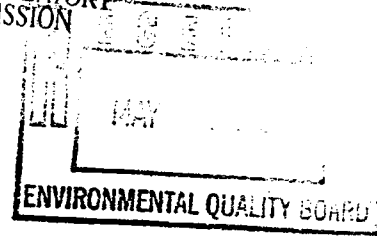
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MAY 13 1997

EQB
DEP P.O. BOX 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that new regulations have been proposed by the DEP concerning quality of streams & rivers. After reviewing this, it is apparent that the DEP's anti-degradation proposal will lower water quality.

Please reject the DEP proposal.
Please keep me up to date on this issue.

Felicia Sam Herman

LAW OFFICES

ARTHUR M. EASTBURN 1911-1971
CHARLES M. MARSHALL 1964-1977

EASTBURN AND GRAY, P. C.

60 EAST COURT STREET
P. O. BOX 1389
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901-4350
215 345-7000

FAX 215 345-9142 (MAIN)
FAX 215 345-0174 (ANNEX)
FAX 215 230-7984 (ESTATE)

NEW JERSEY OFFICE
22 NORTH MAIN STREET
LAMBERTVILLE, NJ 08530
609 397-8880
FAX 609 397-2864

FRANK N. GALLAGHER
THOMAS F. J. MACANIFF
EDWIN C. ANGSTADT, JR.
DEREK J. REID**
ERIC R. TOBIN
D. RODMAN EASTBURN
JOHN N. SCHAEFFER, III
CHRISTOPHER H. SCHUBERT*
DAVID L. MARSHALL
GRACE M. DEON*
G. MICHAEL CARR*

WILLIAM H. EASTBURN III
CHARLES H. DORSETT, JR.
JOHN A. VANLUVANEE
JAY H. KARSCH
KENNETH R. WILLIAMS
JOANNE D. SOMMER
JEFFREY L. FINLEY
JAMES C. DALTON
JANE E. LEOPOLD-LEVENTHAL
FREDERICK H. MASTERS

RETIRED

SAMUEL S. GRAY, JR.

ARTHUR M. EASTBURN, JR.

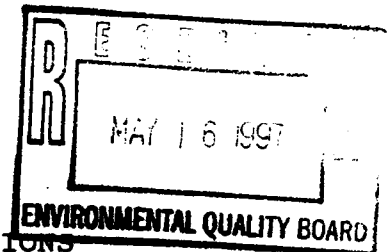
* ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW JERSEY
* MANAGING SHAREHOLDER-NEW JERSEY

May 13, 1997

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TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

Mr. James Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: PROPOSED WATER QUALITY ANTIDegradation REGULATIONS



Dear Mr. Seif:

Please be advised that I represent the Home Builders Association of Bucks/Montgomery Counties, Inc. and numerous developers of residential, commercial and industrial real estate in Bucks and surrounding counties. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the water quality antidegradation regulations which are presently being considered for adoption by the Environmental Quality Board.

As you are no doubt aware, the proposed regulations have the potential to significantly and adversely affect the interests of the real estate development community. For this reason, these regulations should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a "high quality" or "exceptional value" designation.

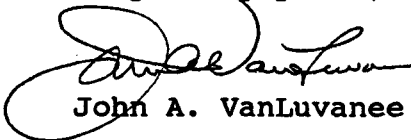
It is also my view that the "exceptional value" program should apply only to outstanding resource waters. In other words, the program should be consistent with the federal regulations. As proposed, the program would be much broader in scope and would include streams that would not qualify under the federal program.

Mr. James Seif, Chairman
May 13, 1997
Page 2

I also believe that it is very important that the regulations be revised to provide for expanded public participation when DEP is assessing waters which are proposed for the "high quality" and "exceptional value" classifications. Notices should be required to be sent by first class mail to all applicants with applications pending which would potentially be affected by the proposed reclassification; to all holders of existing discharge permits; to all municipalities and planning commissions (local and county) through whose lands the streams in question flow; and to all applicants who have received subdivision or land development approval within the last of five years.

There are some good aspects of the program as proposed. DEP's effort to reduce the permitting burden for applicants as included in these proposed regulations is, I believe, appropriate. The provisions regarding minimal impact discharges also are appropriate. Finally, I believe that the use of general permits for high quality streams is appropriate and, in fact, would suggest that this general permit procedure should be expanded to include exceptional value streams.

Very truly yours,



John A. VanLuvanee

JAV/mlm

The Brentwood Organization, Inc.
LAND ACQUISITIONS, DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

842 Durham Road
Suite 300
Newtown, PA 18940

TEL (215) 598-9600
FAX (215) 598-7363

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JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

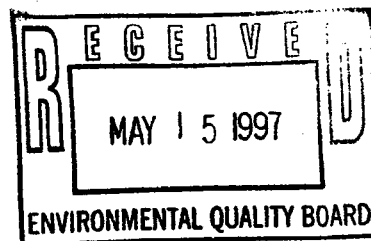
We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Douglas Sanders
President



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MAY 13 1997

Donald J. Potter
318 Price Street
West Chester, PA 19382

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
DEP
POB 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Ref: New Proposal/Water Quality Rules

Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter to be my protest against the subject!

I am not at all satisfied with the continued effort on the part of DEP to avoid reasonable protection for Pennsylvania waters. The persons operating as the state's representatives are still applying the dilatory tactics which have twice within memory resulted in litigation which found the DEP at fault and the EPA forced to step in.

And now the new proposal is, for all intents and purposes, worse! Such as:

HQ and EV need to stay as protected water uses, so that our best streams will not be downgraded;

Contrary to Federal regulations no weight is given to public lands in the selection process;

Another loophole - allows discharges and degradation in EV waters;

There is no integration of wetlands protection with antidegradation;

Waters not yet assessed are protected at the lowest level. How long are they expected to last under these conditions..

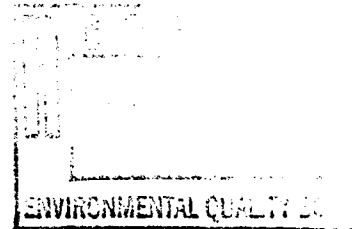
This proposal is loaded with items which are damaging to the environment. It should not be given any credence in its present form - these regulations should be rejected!

I am asking that my feelings be conveyed to the members of the board. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Potter
cc: Valley Forge Trout Unlimited

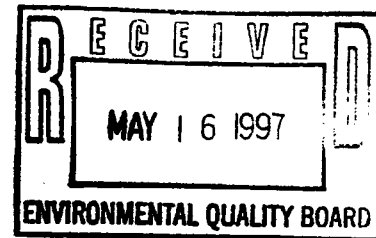




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May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgment calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program. The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

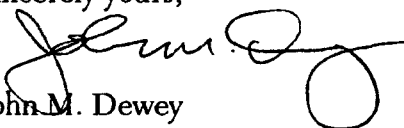
We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants include in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact

Mr. James Seif
May 13, 1997
Page 2

are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,


John M. Dewey

JMD/hs



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Real Estate Development,
Management & Investment

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

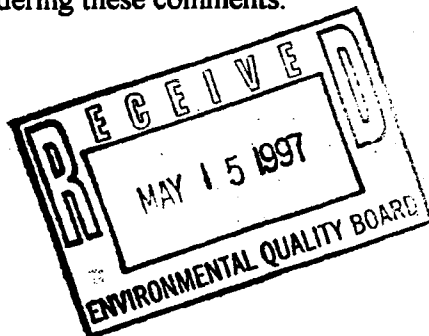
This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

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The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Very truly yours,

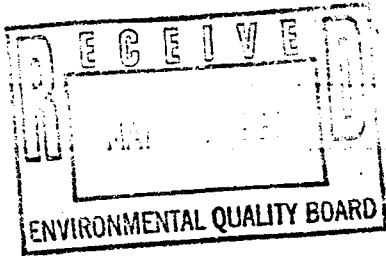
Norman DeSouza
President

ND:jcg

Dear EQB, to Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the DEP's "anti-degradation proposal." You must reject this proposal. We need to work to protect our cleanest waters, not dirty them! Adopt the stronger EPA standards instead. I would appreciate a written response concerning this.

Thank You
Don J. Blackwell



Don J. Blackwell
423 Sample St. #2
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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MAY 13 1997

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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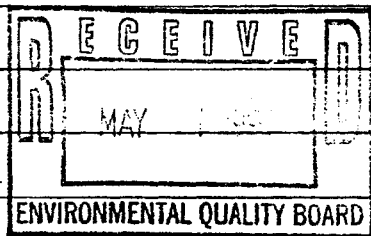
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REVIEW COMMISSION

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To whom it may concern,

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal. Please
adopt the simpler, stronger
standards of the V.E.P.A.



Please respond
JAMIE M. TRIMBUR
53 Spring St.
pgh. PA 15223

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REVIEW COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Reject the
DEP's current
Anti - Degradation
Proposal.

I would like a
reply.

Jennifer Giunta
44 N. Valley Rd.
Paoli, PA 19301

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MAY 13 1997

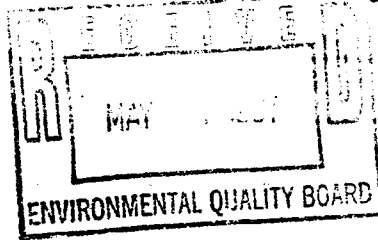
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REVIEW COMMISSION

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EQB
DEP, PO BOX 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

To Whom it may concern,

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal. You should adopt
the simpler, better standards of the EPA.
Please send me a written response.



Jessica Whiteside
3457 Ward St. Apt #2
Pittsburgh, PA
15213

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MAY 13 1997

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I do not understand why the Dep. would want to propose such unsatisfactory water standards, as issued by their recent anti-degradation proposal. It's time our State became serious about water protection. Reject the proposal. Adopt the EPA's standards. What's the problem?

J Klemick
369 S. Pacific Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

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MAY 13 1997
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

May 13, 1997

Dear Sirs:

Don't we ever learn?

Please, don't allow water quality standards to be weakened to any degree for any reason.

Yes, the economy is important, but so is the health of our water and our waterways.

Healthy water and waterways will help create and maintain a strong economy and equally important, a healthy environment which brings with it healthy people.

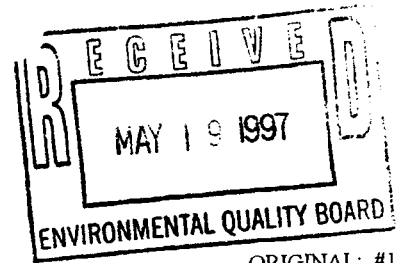
Clean water is something we can't replace. And it is an extreme necessity.

Please protect our water to protect our future.

Sincerely,

John W. McGonigle
Carol A. McGonigle

John W. McGonigle
Carol A. McGonigle
1618 Highland Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380



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REVIEW COMMISSION

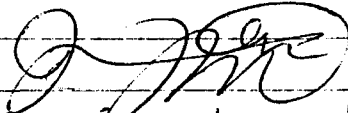
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(PER CAT)

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal. Rivers
are beautiful; let's keep them that
way.

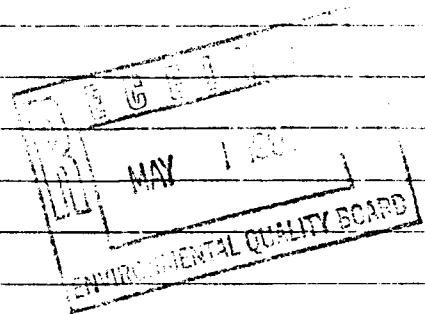
Thank you,

Juan Rivera



630 Summerlea Apt 2

PGH. PA 15232



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Environmental Quality Board

MAY 18 1997

DEP

INDEPENDENT
REVIEW COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 8465

Harrisburg PA 17105

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Please reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal. The state of the area's lakes and rivers is not something to be taken lightly.

Thank you

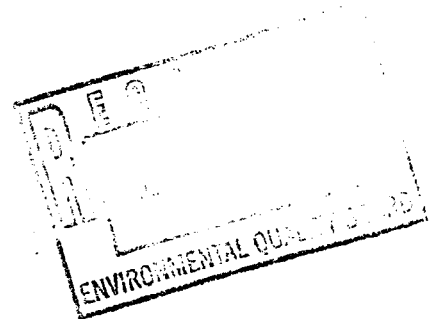


Katya Davis

5733 Holden Street

Apt B

Pittsburgh PA 15232



Environmental Quality Board
DEP
P.O. Box 8465
Harrisburg PA 17105

RECEIVED

MAY 13 1997

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Please reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal. The state of the area's lakes and rivers is not something to be taken lightly.

Thank you

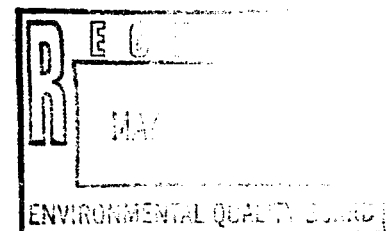
Mary Ellen Wilks

Mary Ellen Wilks

5733 Holden Street

Apt B

Pittsburgh PA 15232



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MAY 13 1997

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)
DEP, PO Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

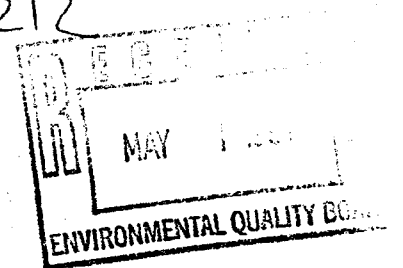
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To whom it may concern -

Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposals.
We want standards that
protect our waterways
from pollution!

Thank you -
Lindsay Manko

LINDSAY MANKO
523 JACKSONIA ST. APT. 1
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212



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5/13/97



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
P.O. Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

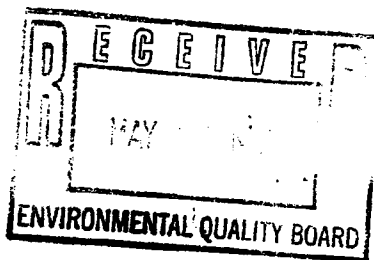
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

PLEASE REJECT THE DEP
ANTI DEGRADATION.

THANK YOU.

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

LISA KLEVENS
907 WELFER ST.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217



5-13-97

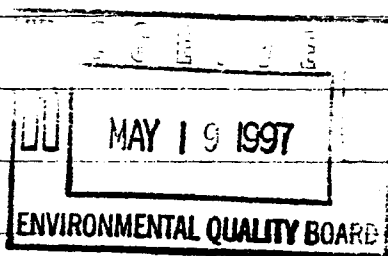
To whom it may concern;

It has been brought to my attention that the DEP is proposing new regulations that would lower our water quality standards. What reason could there possibly be to lower our standards?

I realize we live in an age of takeovers, mergers & big industry - all wanting their own way - all wanting to cut corners to save a buck. No conscience regarding the expense to the environment or the people.

I work for a dialysis group in the area. In the past year the chlorine level seems to have reached an all time high? We need to do more expensive filtering to bring the incoming water up to our standards for our patient care. Also - have you taken notice to the rise in sales for home filters for ~~their~~ tap water? People complain of cramping & nausea from their tap water. All the chemicals? I don't know. I drink well water.

I think its time now to stand our ground. We need to stop bending the laws and stop lowering our standards. Its time to be responsible and think ahead.



Sincerely
Luise & Dallesandro

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JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

2426 North Second St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110
232-3480

May 13, 1997

Mr. James M. Scif, Chairman
Pa. Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101-8477

Re: Pa. Antidegradation Program

Dear Mr. Scif,

The following comments are in response to the proposed rulemaking regarding the Commonwealth's antidegradation program published in the March 22, 1997 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

As Clean Streams Committee Chairman for the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. (PFSC), I believe that a strong antidegradation policy is absolutely essential for Pennsylvania because clean water is necessary for its citizens to survive, its wildlife to thrive and to keep its economy alive.

The PFSC notes that the Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees our right to pure water. The proposed rulemaking, while making some important positive changes, and retaining key features, does not go far enough to protect that right under the Constitution.

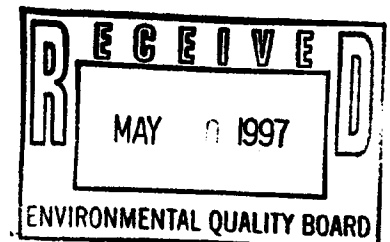
We respectfully submit the following recommendations for the EQB's consideration:

Chapter 92

The PFSC believes that the total prohibition of general NPDES permits in Special Protection watersheds should remain. General permits, by their nature, allow for degradation. Individual permits are needed.

Chapter 93.1 Definitions

We support the new definition of Exceptional Value waters, except that "watersheds" should be the unit of degradation, not "surface waters". In both the Exceptional Value and High Quality definitions, "surface waters" should be replaced with "watersheds". The proposed definition of "surface waters" is fairly comprehensive and should not be changed if the final regulation definitions retain "surface waters".



Chapter 93.3 Protected water uses

The PFSC does not support deleting HQ and EV from the list of protected water uses. This proposal retains the current level of EQB oversight in designating streams as either HQ or EV. However, removing HQ and EV from the list of protected water uses removes designation changes from EPA's scrutiny, which is important. Because the level of EQB oversight remains the same, EV and HQ should remain as protected water uses.

Chapter 93.4 (a) Antidegradation requirements

(a) Existing use protection

We do not support the language that conditions protection of existing uses on the "Department's evaluation of technical data", as this makes Pennsylvania's definition more restrictive than the Federal definition. Existing uses must be protected unequivocally. We also suggest the following language for endangered species protection:

"If known habitat for Federal or Pennsylvania threatened or endangered species is present, then no activity shall take place that could adversely affect the species".

(b) High Quality Waters

(1) Qualifying as High Quality Waters.

We believe that a more reasonable approach was outlined in the final report of the conservation stakeholders, that is, using chemistry or biology. We do not believe that two separate tests, chemistry and biology, can be justified as being consistent with Federal regulation.

(2) Level of protection/social or economic justification.

We support the linkage of degradation of water quality (a public resource) to benefits accrued by the public.

(6) Special provisions...

We strongly disagree with the spirit and letter of this provision. A discharge cannot "maintain and protect" water quality if it uses up to 25% of the assimilative capacity of the water, or qualifies for a general permit. **THIS LANGUAGE MUST BE CHANGED.**

Regardless, there is no provision in the Federal regulation for exempting any amount of degradation from all the Tier 2 requirements. All applicants wishing to degrade water quality must be required to justify the degradation as outlined in (2), as well as conduct an alternative analysis and use BAT. The purpose of Tier 2 is to give power to the public in making decisions about their water quality. DEP takes that power away with this loophole.

All discharges in HQ or EV streams should undergo an alternative analysis and be required to use the best available technology. We support the provision which states that applicants for "minimal impact" discharges be required to conduct an alternatives analysis and implement BAT.

(c) Exceptional Value waters.

(1) Qualifying as Exceptional Value waters.

"Watersheds" should be designated, rather than "surface waters". It is disappointing that the Department gives no added weight to waters on public lands, unlike the current program and the Federal definition of Tier 3 waters. There also is no attempt made to assess recreational (aside from Wilderness Trout Streams) or ecological value than cannot be measured with the Rapid Bioassessment Protocol. In short, the proposal severely limits the number of ways in which a watershed can qualify as EV, compared to current practice and Federal requirements. The "Special Protection Waters Implementation Handbook" is far better than the current proposal, which has deleted a number of attributes formerly considered as being worthy of an EV designation. Notably absent is the presence of endangered species, whose presence is usually an indication of high ecological value. We strongly recommend retaining the Handbook language over this proposal.

(d) General requirements...

(2) Nonpoint sources.

The proposed language is weak. While there is no Federal language concerning nonpoint sources for Tier 3 streams, there is Federal language concerning Tier 2 streams. That language states that the State must ensure that all the required nonpoint source controls be in place before allowing any more degradation. It should be adopted verbatim over the proposed language.

(e) Public participation...

Although the stakeholders group did not come to a final agreement, the group did reach an agreement on public participation. Their recommendations should be implemented.

(5) Public hearings...

Public hearings should be held on any proposed discharge to HQ waters. This would be consistent with the approach taken in paragraph (2) where the Department publishes a notice of its intent to study waters for either an HQ or EV classification.

Chapter 93.7 Specific water quality criteria.

The PFSC supports the retention of higher dissolved oxygen criteria for HQ streams and "existing quality" for EV streams.

Chapter 15.1 Implementation of test for High Quality Waters.

(b) We oppose using water quality parameters to assess the "suitability to maintain... recreation uses" when the Department does not consider any recreational uses as an attribute worthy of an HQ designation. This is inconsistent, as recreation is only considered in the negative.

(d) As stated above, this attribute should be optional. If either chemistry or biology meet the applicable threshold, than the stream should be protected HQ.

(e) While we support additional protection given to Class A trout streams, their automatic inclusion here will tend to preclude them from consideration as EV waters. Class A streams are exceptional recreational resources and most, if not all of them, should receive protection as Exceptional Value waters. Also, wild trout streams that are not Class A are given no consideration, although they easily meet the Federal definition of Tier 2.

(f) The Department should not use fecal coliforms as a measure of water quality. If the Department believes that recreation is indeed hampered by high levels of fecal coliforms, then it has an obligation to inform the public of affected waters and take enforcement actions.

Chapter 15.2 Implementation of test for Exceptional Value Waters.

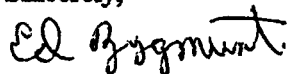
Wilderness Trout Streams should be considered a recreational rather than a biological component.

This proposal is also deafening with its silence on how DEP plans on integrating this program with the wetlands protection program. Wetlands have not received adequate antidegradation protection in Pennsylvania.

In summary, The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs believes that certain provisions of this proposal are less protective than Federal regulations and guidance. If these provisions are not changed, we will ask EPA to retain the Federal regulations for Pennsylvania.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our recommendations and express our concerns.

Sincerely,



Ed Zygmont, chairman
Clean Streams Committee



PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

GENERAL OFFICES • 301 APC BUILDING • 800 NORTH THIRD STREET • HARRISBURG, PA 17102

ADDRESS REPLY TO

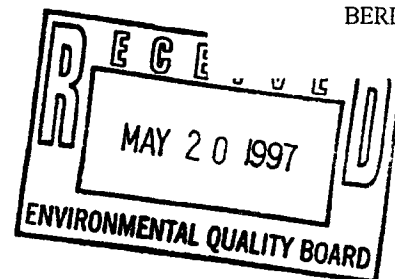
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May 19, 1997
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Environmental Quality Board
Rachel Carson State Office Building
15th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2301



**Comments of the Pennsylvania Electric Association
Proposed Water Quality Antidegradation Program
PA Bulletin, Volume 27, No. 12, March 22, 1997**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Pennsylvania Electric Association ("PEA") welcomes the opportunity to present the following comments to the Environmental Quality Board on the proposed Water Quality Amendments - Antidegradation, as published in the March 22, 1997 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

PEA is the state trade association of the 11 investor-owned electric utilities in Pennsylvania. Our members own and operate some 75 power plants in the state, and generate about 94 percent of the Commonwealth's electric power needs. Together, our members' capital investment in Pennsylvania totals \$25 billion. We have approximately 25,000 employees.

GENERAL

PEA supports the proposed regulation to the extent it refines what we believe is already the nation's preeminent antidegradation program. Some of the proposed changes would indeed ease the permitting burden, but others are more restrictive than necessary. Outlined below are specific comments for your consideration.

DEFINITIONS

PEA supports the exclusionary language in the definition of "Surface Waters" for wastewater treatment impoundments, cooling water ponds, and constructed wetlands.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE WATERS

In his letter dated August 4, 1994, Secretary Seif introduced the "Regulatory Basics Initiative." The Secretary directed that an overall review of agency regulations and guidance be conducted to assure that Pennsylvania's requirements are "no more stringent than standards imposed by Federal law." Federal regulations relating to exceptional value ("EV") waters apply to a specific category of waters known as Outstanding National Resource Waters ("ONRWs") that are located on public lands. The Department's March 22 proposal, relating to EV waters is in absolute conflict with the Secretary's directive. If adopted as proposed, the EV waters standard for Pennsylvania would allow the Department to designate many streams as EV waters that would otherwise never qualify as such under the Federal program. The EV classification should only apply to streams that are truly unique or exhibit national or statewide significance.

The proposal departs even further from the Federal program by allowing the EV designation to be placed on streams flowing through private lands. An EV designation on private land can have serious economic impacts on businesses operating in the affected watershed. The Federal program applies only to waters on public land and the Department should not be permitted to designate waters that flow through private property for EV protection.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The proposed regulation requires NPDES permit applicants to solicit public comment before applying for the permit on proposed discharges to high quality and exceptional value streams. This effectively establishes two 30-day public comment periods since all Part I NPDES applications are published for comment after the application is submitted.

The requirement that permit applicants must ask for public comments will increase paperwork, add to the administrative burdens, waste time, all the while serving no useful purpose. PEA requests eliminating this requirement.

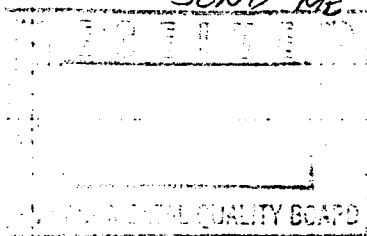
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DEAR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD,
PLEASE REJECT THE DEP'S NEW ANTI-
DEGRADATION PROPOSALS. THEY FAIL
TO MEET THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT'S
STANDARDS. NO NEW DISCHARGE, PLEASE
SEND ME A REPLY.



SINCERELY
REGAN A. McLAUGHLIN
350 S. ATLANTIC AVE. #3
PGH, PA 15224

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Dear Sir

Please repeat the RPA

Current Anti-dumping

Proposal. We are losing

our natural resources fast

enough as it is

Thank you

Miss Nancy A. Bray

222 So. Dr. Elmwood

McClintock, Pa. 18104

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Apt. B1 North
119 Mill Creek Rd.
Ardmore, PA 19003

Environmental Quality Board
DEP
POB 8465
Harrisburg, -PA 17105

New Proposal Water/Quality Rules

Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter to be my protest against the subject!

I am not at all satisfied with the continued effort on the part of the DEP to avoid reasonable protection for Pennsylvania waters. The persons operating as the state's representatives are still applying the dilatory tactics which have twice within memory resulted in litigation which found the DEP at fault and the EPA forced to step in.

And now the new proposal is, for all intents and purposes, worse! Such as:

HQ and EV need to stay as protected water uses, so that our best streams will not be downgraded;

Contrary to Federal regs no weight is given to public lands in the selection process;

Another loophole - allows discharges and degradation in EV waters;

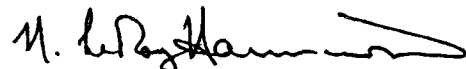
There is no integration of wetlands protection with antidegradation;

Waters not yet assessed are protected at the lowest level. How long are they expected to last under these conditions.

This proposal is loaded with items which are damaging to the environment. It should not be given any credence in its present form - these regulations should be rejected!

I am asking that my feelings be conveyed to the members of the Board. Thank you.

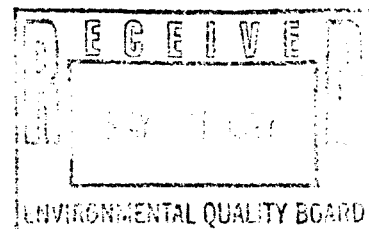
Yours truly,



N. LeRoy Hammond, III, M.D.

NLH/amc

cc: VFTU



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nm-

E.O.B.

Please reject the
DEP's current anti-
degradation proposal.
Please adopt the simpler,
better standards of the EPA.

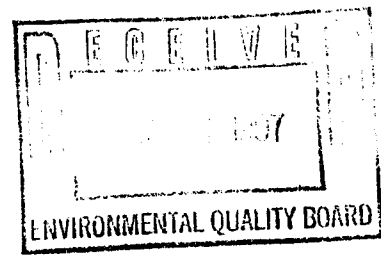
Thank you -

Ms. M. Pajot-Kemp

BRANCH OF THE SEINE NEAR GIVERNY I
Claude Monet, French, 1840-1926
oil on canvas, 29 x 36 7/8 inches
Juliana Cheney Edwards Collection
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (39.655)

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—
*Reject the DEP's
Anti-degradation Proposal*

 Mrs. Dow E. Emerson Jr.
954 Ivycroft Rd.
Wayne, PA 19087-2014

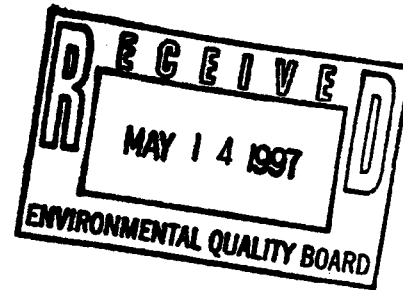
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MOSER BUILDERS, INC.

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May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulations. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope and includes streams that would never qualify under the federal program.

The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

We support the department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Moser

MOSER BUILDERS, INC.

30 SOUTH VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 306
PAOLI, PA 19301
(610) 725-0812
Fax: (610) 725-0816

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fax t r a n s m i t t a l

to:

Secretary, Dep. Chairman

Environmental Quality Board.

fax:

1-717-783-8926

from:

Ted Moser, Moser Builders Inc.

date:

5/13/97

re:

DEP

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 2 , including cover sheet.

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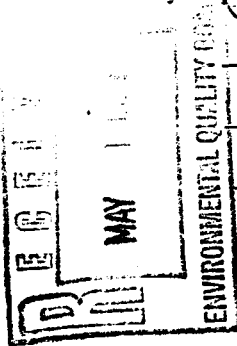
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Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

Please reject the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal! If adopted, the proposed regulations would lower water quality in Pennsylvania.

We need standards that protect our waterways from degradation. New regulations must provide for no new discharges into EV streams, return to the current standard for selecting HQ streams, and provide interim existing use protection while any proposal to reclassify a stream is reviewed.

Please do your part to protect our waterways.



Mari Zorn (Name)
185 Red Road Dr (Address)
Levittown Pa 19056 (Town/Zip)

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PA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

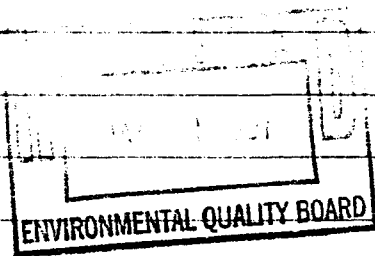
PLEASE REJECT THE DEP'S CURRENT ANTI-DEGRADATION
PROPOSAL. ADOPT THE SIMPLER, BETTER STANDARDS OF THE EPA.

PLEASE RESPOND

MEGAN CHAMBERS

209 WOODLAND AVENUE

GLENSHAW-PA 15116



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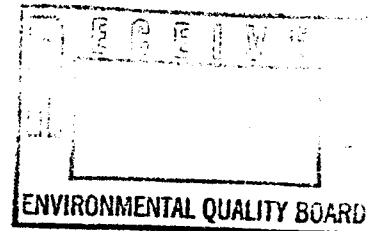
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Lynn Opdyke
47 Kenwood Cir.
Quakertown, Pa.
April 25, 1997

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8465
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Dear Sirs,
Concerning the Clean Water Act, please reject the DEP's
current anti-degradation proposal, and adopt the simpler,
better standards of the EPA. I am requesting a reply. Thank
you.

Sincerely,



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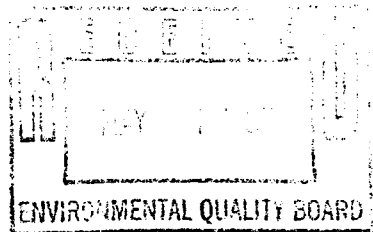
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To whom it may concern,
Please reject the DEP's current
anti-degradation proposal.
We must maintain the standards
that protect our waterways!

Please reply to:

Rhoda Cutler
54 OVERBROOK RD
Pittsburgh PA 15235



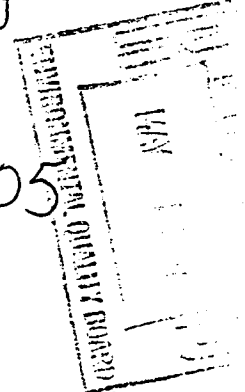
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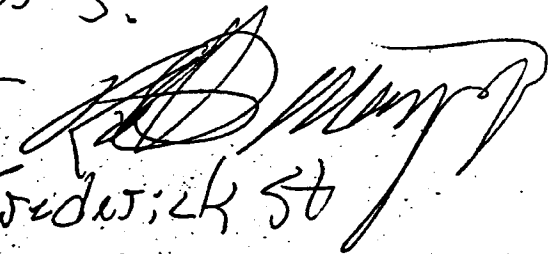
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Environmental Quality Board
Dep
Box 8465
Harrisburg Pa. 17105



Dear Sir or Madam:

Please reject the
Dep's recommendations for
the anti-degradation for Pa.
Thank you, we need
cleaner lakes streams
and rivers.


2812 Frederick St
Pgh, Pa 15212

STOLTZFUS ENTERPRISES BUILDERS

26 East Main Street, P.O. Box 20, Elverson, PA 19520 • (610) 286-5115 • FAX (610) 286-8954

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed water quality antidegradation regulations. This is a very important proposal and my comments are as follows:


This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the department to revise all of its regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's environmental regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that state's water quality must "exceed" standards rather than what is contained in the proposal as "generally better than" standards. This proposal of "generally better than" standards allows for judgement calls by the department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality or exceptional value designation.

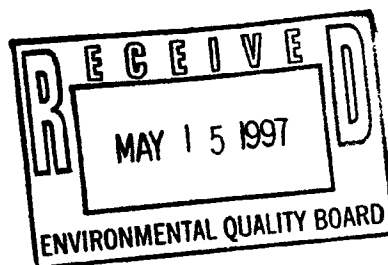
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We support the departments's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding discharges with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Sincerely,


Merle W. Stoltzfus



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REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
DEP
PO Box 8465
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Stephen Koran
2716 Society Dr.
Claymont, De. 19703

Sub: New Proposal/Water Quality Rules

Gentlemen:

Please consider this to be my protest against the subject!!

I am not at all with the continued effort on the part of DEP to avoid responsible protection for Pennsylvania waters.. The persons operating as the state's representatives are still applying the dilatory tactics which have twice within memory resulted in litigation which found DEP at fault and the EPA forced to step in.

And now the new proposal is, for all intents and purposed, worse!!! Consider:

HQ & EV need to stay as protected water uses, so that your best streams will not be downgraded;

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Another loophole - allows discharges and degradation in EV waters;

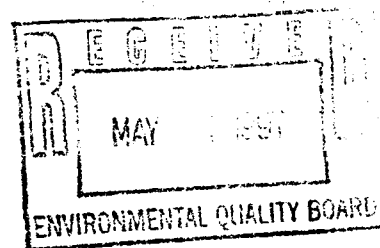
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Waters not yet assessed are protected at the lowest level. How long are they expected to last under these conditions?

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I am requesting that my feelings be conveyed to the members of the Board.
Sincerely,


Stephen Koran





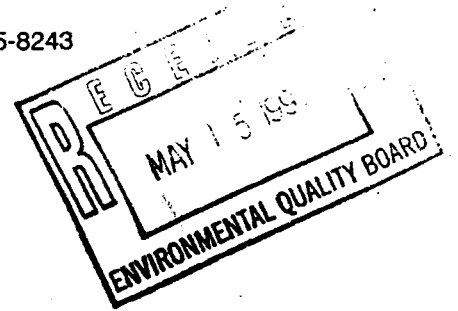
SNYDER BROTHERS INC.

P.O. Box 1022, 409 Butler Road
Kittanning, PA 16201

Phone (412) 548-8101 FAX (412) 545-8243

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May 13, 1997



Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED WATER QUALITY ANTIDEGRADATION REGULATION

One of the main reasons I voted for Governor Ridge was his promise to cut back on excessive environmental regulations. He asked you to help him fulfill that promise when he issued Executive Order 1996-1.

Governor Ridge's Executive Order requires any state regulation that is more stringent than its federal counterpart to be brought into line with the federal standards unless there is a state law that requires a stronger program or there is some overriding Pennsylvania interest that warrants tougher controls.

The proposed water quality antidegradation regulation ignores the Governor's Executive Order. It includes many elements that are substantially more stringent than the what is required by EPA's antidegradation program without any justification other than a failed regulatory negotiation.

The Department of Environmental Protection should have drafted the proposed regulation to satisfy the mandates of the Governor's executive order. Since it did not, you should change the regulation to do so before you approve it as a final rule.

I urge you to amend the final regulation as follows:

Change the Exceptional Value Waters program so that it only applies to outstanding waters on public lands.

The EV waters standard is the most glaring violation of the Governor's Executive Order contained in the proposed regulation. EPA's program only applies to Outstanding National Resource Waters on public lands, but DEP's proposal goes much further.

The EV designation should be reserved for streams that are truly unique or exhibit statewide or national significance. Many of the Pennsylvania streams currently classified as EV cannot meet that standard, and the proposed regulation lets DEP continue to designate EV streams that could never meet such a standard.

Almost half of the streams now classified by DEP as EV waters are private lands. DEP should not be permitted to designate waters that flow through private lands for EV protection because of the extreme restrictions the designation imposes on individuals and communities who wish to use the waters responsibly to improve their quality of life.

Expand public participation in the EV designation decision.

If the final regulation allows the EV designation to be placed on private watershed lands, you should provide for more public participation in the decision to designate EV waters. The proposed rulemaking asks for more public input on technical issues, but it brushes aside any public discussion of the serious economic and social impacts that the EV designation can have for the people who live and work in the affected watershed.

The regulation should be changed to require DEP to get the people affected by an EV upgrade to buy into it. Specifically:

- * DEP should be required to inform the owners of private watershed lands that would be affected by a new EV designation how it will limit what they can do on their property.
- * The regulations should allow the affected property owners to decide whether they want the EV designation.
- * DEP should be required to get a formal commitment from the owners of the affected watershed lands to preserve the resource at the strict EV standard before recommending the designation to the EQB.

Make general permits available on all Special Protection waters.

The proposed regulation allows general permits for minor discharges on HQ streams. This is a positive step, but it should go further. Many private individuals own the minerals under EV watershed lands. If their discharge qualifies for a general permit, they should be able to use that permit on both HQ and EV streams. Otherwise they may not be able to extract the minerals economically.

Keep the "de minimis" permit threshold to ease the permitting burden.

I support the proposal to ease the permitting burden for minor discharges to HQ streams.

Change the High Quality Waters program to match federal standards.

DEP's proposal allows streams to qualify for HQ status if they have water quality that is "generally better" than water quality standards. The EPA regulation, on the other hand, requires a stream to "exceed" water quality standards before it can be elevated to HQ status. A stream should never qualify for Special Protection if even one of its water quality parameters violates the required standard.

Use sound science to evaluate streams for Special Protection.

DEP should also be required to conduct a valid scientific investigation of water quality to determine if a stream qualifies for Special Protection. It is bad science to rely on one grab sample to assess a stream. While it may be a bureaucratic convenience, this limited sampling does not generate enough information to accurately determine whether a stream's background condition exceeds water quality standards.

Change the Social and Economic Justification requirements for High Quality Waters to match federal regulations.

The Department's proposal imposes the basic federal SEJ standard and adds a second "balancing test" that has no federal counterpart. The balancing test should be removed from the final rule.

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Thank you for considering these comments. I hope that you will hold the DEP accountable for living up to the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order.

Sincerely,

SNYDER BROTHERS, INC.



Mark A. Karenchack
Assistant Secretary

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Environmental Quality Board
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pa 17105-8477

Dear Mr. Seif:

It is my understanding that DEP has recently settled a lawsuit, and plans to "assess" the one-half of our commonwealth streams which are currently "unassessed". Even with DEP's best efforts, it is estimated that the process will take 10 years to complete.

Here in south-central PA, we have many streams which are unassessed, and protected with only the basic water quality protection (Tier 1). DEP's proposed antidegradation regulation in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of March 22, 1997 does nothing to address the 29,000 miles of unassessed streams. Apparently, DEP should protect these unassessed streams at a Tier 2 level unless a permit applicant can demonstrate otherwise. The public's resources should receive the benefit of the doubt.

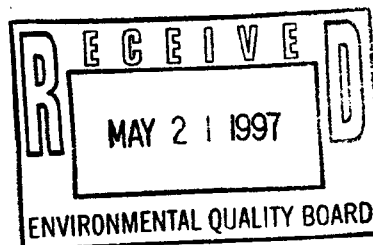
Also, the language mentioning non-point source pollution is weaker than the current language for HQ streams. Our good streams are under pressure from agriculture and land development, so strong non-point source language is essential to their well-being.

Please change these two provisions in the proposed regulation.

Sincerely,



Ronald H. Filius

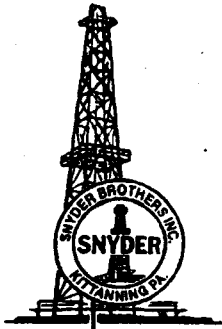


SNYDER BROTHERS, INC.

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TYRRELL
JEWETT
SANDUSKY
WYATTE
BERESCHAK



May 13, 1997



Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED WATER QUALITY ANTIDegradation REGULATION

One of the main reasons I voted for Governor Ridge was his promise to cut back on excessive environmental regulations. He asked you to help him fulfill that promise when he issued Executive Order 1996-1.

Governor Ridge's Executive Order requires any state regulation that is more stringent than its federal counterpart to be brought into line with the federal standards unless there is a state law that requires a stronger program or there is some overriding Pennsylvania interest that warrants tougher controls.

The proposed water quality antidegradation regulation ignores the Governor's Executive Order. It includes many elements that are substantially more stringent than the what is required by EPA's antidegradation program without any justification other than a failed regulatory negotiation.

The Department of Environmental Protection should have drafted the proposed regulation to satisfy the mandates of the Governor's executive order. Since it did not, you should change the regulation to do so before you approve it as a final rule.

I urge you to amend the final regulation as follows:

Change the Exceptional Value Waters program so that it only applies to outstanding waters on public lands.

The EV waters standard is the most glaring violation of the Governor's Executive Order contained in the proposed regulation. EPA's program only applies to Outstanding National Resource Waters on public lands, but DEP's proposal goes much further.

The EV designation should be reserved for streams that are truly unique or exhibit statewide or national significance. Many of the Pennsylvania streams currently classified as EV cannot meet that standard, and the proposed regulation lets DEP continue to designate EV streams that could never meet such a standard.

Almost half of the streams now classified by DEP as EV waters are private lands. DEP should not be permitted to designate waters that flow through private lands for EV protection because of the extreme restrictions the designation imposes on individuals and communities who wish to use the waters responsibly to improve their quality of life.

Expand public participation in the EV designation decision.

If the final regulation allows the EV designation to be placed on private watershed lands, you should provide for more public participation in the decision to designate EV waters. The proposed rulemaking asks for more public input on technical issues, but it brushes aside any public discussion of the serious economic and social impacts that the EV designation can have for the people who live and work in the affected watershed.

The regulation should be changed to require DEP to get the people affected by an EV upgrade to buy into it. Specifically:

- * DEP should be required to inform the owners of private watershed lands that would be affected by a new EV designation how it will limit what they can do on their property.
- * The regulations should allow the affected property owners to decide whether they want the EV designation.
- * DEP should be required to get a formal commitment from the owners of the affected watershed lands to preserve the resource at the strict EV standard before recommending the designation to the EQB.

Make general permits available on all Special Protection waters.

The proposed regulation allows general permits for minor discharges on HQ streams. This is a positive step, but it should go further. Many private individuals own the minerals under EV watershed lands. If their discharge qualifies for a general permit, they should be able to use that permit on both HQ and EV streams. Otherwise they may not be able to extract the minerals economically.

Keep the "de minimis" permit threshold to ease the permitting burden.

I support the proposal to ease the permitting burden for minor discharges to HQ streams.

Change the High Quality Waters program to match federal standards.

DEP's proposal allows streams to qualify for HQ status if they have water quality that is "generally better" than water quality standards. The EPA regulation, on the other hand, requires a stream to "exceed" water quality standards before it can be elevated to HQ status. A stream should never qualify for Special Protection if even one of its water quality parameters violates the required standard.

Use sound science to evaluate streams for Special Protection.

DEP should also be required to conduct a valid scientific investigation of water quality to determine if a stream qualifies for Special Protection. It is bad science to rely on one grab sample to assess a stream. While it may be a bureaucratic convenience, this limited sampling does not generate enough information to accurately determine whether a stream's background condition exceeds water quality standards.

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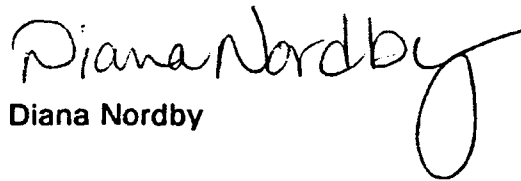
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Thank you for considering these comments. I hope that you will hold the DEP accountable for living up to the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order.

Sincerely,

SNYDER BROTHERS, INC.


Diana Nordby

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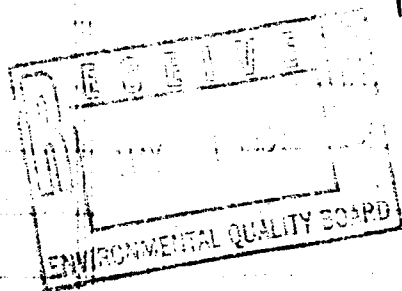
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REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Sir/Madam:

Adopt the simpler standards enforced by EPA;
Please reject the DEP's current anti-
degradation proposal. Please respond
as to your position to the address
listed below!

Robert Graham
1428 Wightman St.
Pittsburgh PA 15217



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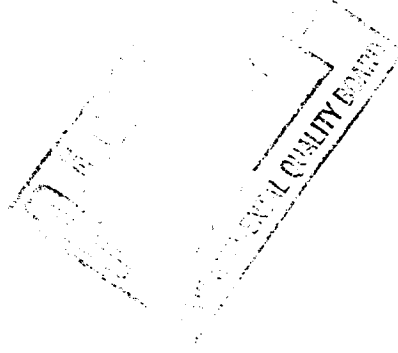
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

— Please reject the DEP's
current anti-degradation proposal.

Thank you,
The Giangiulios
10 Karen Drive
Malvern, Pa. 19355



Mr. Robert S. Giangiulio
10 Karen Dr.
Malvern, PA 19355-2408



Environ
DEP
PO Box 1
Harrisburg

17105/BA63 63

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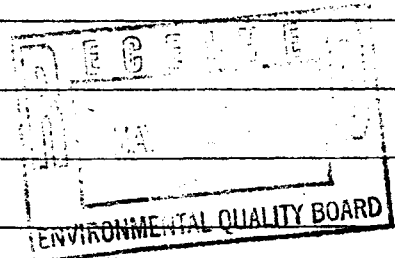
Dear Sir:

Please reject the DCP's
current anti degradation
proposal.

The Clean Water Act.

Please reply with a answer.

Thank you
Susan Aemburst
1316 SCHWEITZER RD
McKEESPORT PA 15135-20



May 13, 1997

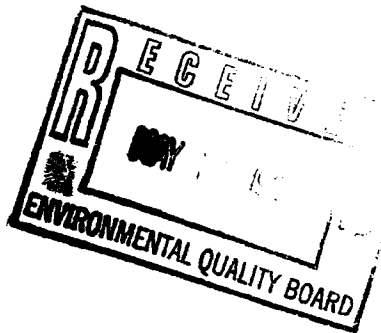
Environmental Quality Board
DEP, PO Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the DEP's current anti-degradation proposal. Please take measures to reject this proposal.

Thank you.

Jessan Vallejo
10059 Oakridge Dr.
Wexford, PA 15090



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97 MAY 13 1997

May 13, 1997

Environmental Quality Board
Post Office Box 8465
Harrisburg, PA 17105


To whom it may concern:

Regarding your upcoming hearings on loosening the clean water provisions, I wish to go on record as being adamantly opposed.

It is very shortsighted to lessen any restrictions that we have. This would put the burden of cleaning up our mess on future generations, when it is much easier to refrain from polluting in the first place. Our water is one of our greatest assets, but it would be one of our greatest problems if you change the regulations. Valley Creek in southeastern Pennsylvania is very clean now due to long-range planning. Many communities depend on it remaining clean. I am doubtful that your potential changes will allow that.

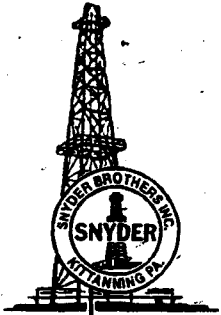
Please leave the current regulations alone or make them stricter, not easing them. The health and future of our state is at stake.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Cresswell
510 N. New Street
West Chester, PA 19380-2218





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Kittanning, PA 16201

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May 13, 1997



Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED WATER QUALITY ANTIDEGRADATION REGULATION

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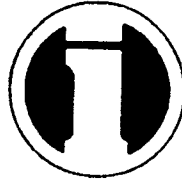
Thank you for considering these comments. I hope that you will hold the DEP accountable for living up to the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order.

Sincerely,

SNYDER BROTHERS, INC.



Carol A. Toy



THE IACOBUCCI
ORGANIZATION

45 Years Of Building Experience

May 13, 1997

Mr. James Seif
Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
Post Office Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8477



Dear Secretary Seif:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposed *Water Quality Antidegradation Regulations*. This is a very important proposal, and my comments are as follows:

This proposal should be subject to the Governor's Executive Order 1996-1, which requires the Department to revise all of its Regulations to bring balance to Pennsylvania's Environmental Regulations. In several instances, Pennsylvania's program exceeds federal standards. The DEP should adopt the federal language that states water quality must "*exceed*" standards, rather than what is contained in the proposal as "*generally better than*" standards. This proposal of "*generally better than*" standards allows for judgment calls by the Department. If data indicates the stream does not meet even one water quality standard, the stream should not qualify for a high quality, or exceptional, value designation.

Pennsylvania's exceptional value program should apply only to outstanding resource waters as contained in the federal regulation. Currently, DEP's program is much broader in scope, and includes streams that would never qualify under the Federal Program.

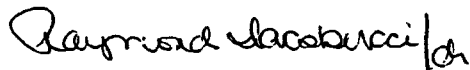
The DEP must expand its public participation in regard to its assessment of high quality and exceptional value waters. Notice by first class mail must be sent to any applicant with a pending permit, any existing discharge permittees, the appropriate municipalities, planning commissions and all applicants that have received planning or subdivision and land development approval within the last five years.

Mr. James Seif
Environmental Quality Board
May 13, 1997
Page Two

We support the Department's efforts to reduce the permitting burden for applicants included in this proposal. The provisions regarding dischargers with minimal impact are welcomed. We also endorse the use of general permits on high quality streams, and support the expansion of this practice to exceptional value streams.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond Iacobucci".

Raymond Iacobucci
President

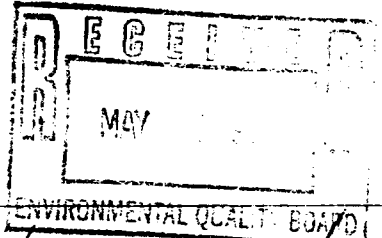
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Consider this letter to be my protest
against the subject!

I'm not satisfied with the efforts of
the D.E.P. to avoid protection of Penna.
waters. Persons acting as our States
Reps are still applying dilatory tactics
which have twice resulted in litigation
which found the D.E.P. at fault and the
E.P.A. forced to step in.

The new proposals being suggested
are a backward step for the preservation
of our streams.

H.Q. + E.V. must remain as protected
water uses, so our best streams won't
be downgraded.

No weight is given to public lands in the
selection process. Another loophole allows dis-
charges and degradation into E.V. RATES
streams. Also waters not yet assessed are
protected at lowest levels. They won't last
very long!

The proposal is loaded with items damaging
to our environment, it shouldn't be given
any consideration in its ^{PRESENT} ~~PRESENT~~ form.

Convey my feeling to the board please

Thomas J. ZERVAS