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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850



RECEIVED

February 19, 2008

FEB 25 2008
PT # 9

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

Re: Proposed Rulemaking, Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards
(*Pennsylvania Bulletin*, January 12, 2008)

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the subject proposed rulemaking. This Triennial Review addresses a variety of organizational changes to Chapters 93 and 16, including numerous corrections and clarifications. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of federally listed, threatened and endangered species, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.

We have no objections, and only one suggested addition to the proposed rule. We recommend that section 93.8d(2) (concerning the development of site-specific criteria) specify that, when the waters in question contain federally-listed, threatened or endangered species, the Department of Environmental Protection will coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Service from the study design phase, through to the final decisionmaking process, to ensure that the listed species are protected. This will ensure that information needed from an Endangered Species Act standpoint is incorporated into the process at an early stage, thereby preventing delays for the applicant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Cindy Tibbott of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

David Densmore
Supervisor

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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