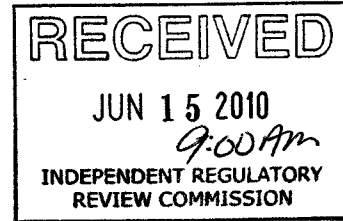


2783

**From:** Michele Adams [michelea@melioradesign.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 7:06 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Docket 2783



Dear IRRC Commissioners:

As a professional engineer in the State of Pennsylvania, I am writing to urge you to adopt the proposed stream buffer requirements for EV and HQ streams. Considerable research, including research conducted by the Stroud Water Research Center in Avondale, PA, has demonstrated the effectiveness and value of stream buffers in protecting and improving water quality. Research also indicates that stream buffers must have sufficient width to achieve an effective reduction in sediment, temperature, and other pollutants.

With eight million Pennsylvanians relying on surface water for their drinking supply, the need to protect this resource is critical. The "ecosystem services" provided by effective stream buffers vastly out perform engineered systems in their ability to improve water quality at lower cost and lower energy. Systems designed by engineers will never match the effectiveness and efficiency of nature's engineering.

While some municipalities have adopted local buffer requirements, these requirements are often "excused" by zoning variances. The need for a State requirement that protects all EV and HQ streams and maintains water quality for human needs is essential. Many of the concerns expressed earlier have been addressed in the current regulation as proposed, and PaDEP has responded to the stakeholder input in a reasonable manner. The current proposal needs to move forward, and I urge the IRRC to adopt the proposed stream buffer requirements.

Sincerely,

Michele C. Adams, P.E. LEED AP  
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