

2783

CHELSEA WAGNER, MEMBER

109 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202022  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2022  
PHONE: (717) 783-1582  
FAX: (717) 780-4765

900 BROOKLINE BOULEVARD  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15226  
PHONE: (412) 343-2094  
FAX: (412) 343-2262

CASTE VILLAGE SHOPPES  
5301 GROVE ROAD, SUITE M112  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15236  
PHONE: (412) 881-1005  
FAX: (412) 881-1007



RECEIVED  
FEB 1 - 2010  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION  
JUDICIARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRANSPORTATION  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING on 25 PA. CODE CH. 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management

To Whom It May Concern:

Pennsylvania has over 83,000 miles of streams. This is an important resource and we need to protect it! This is why we need a mandatory stream buffers program, not a voluntary one. It is also why DEP should not eliminate technical review of stormwater plans. Without review by the state and without opportunities for public comment, stormwater management will get worse, not better. Pennsylvania's streams cannot afford more pollution and runoff, and we cannot afford increased flooding and drinking water treatment costs.

We applaud DEP for requiring forested buffers on EV streams, but we need to require forested buffers of at least 100 feet on both sides of every stream in our state, with 150 feet on small headwater streams and 300 feet on Exceptional Value and High Quality streams. Forested Buffers are good for the environment and the economy. Buffers will reduce pollution of our streams, limit erosion of stream banks, improve habitat for fish and keep streams cooler. They will also increase property values for nearby properties, and cut stormwater management costs and drinking water treatment costs. And they will reduce damage from flooding, which costs at least \$6 billion a year. Many municipalities in Pennsylvania already require at least 100 foot buffers, demonstrating that environmental improvements can be achieved without economic burdens.

DEP should also continue to review stormwater plans to insure that they meet the standards of the Clean Water Act and do not degrade the quality of the streams of the Commonwealth. An expedited permit review process, like the new "permit-by-rule" (PBR) program, puts rivers and streams at risk, is poor policy, and violates core requirements of the Clean Water Act. Of particular concern is the fact that the PBR would apply in High Quality and Impaired watersheds. These watersheds require special protections to ensure that water quality is protected and maintained. Those special protections cannot be ensured through an expedited permit review process.

Please make minimum 100 foot forested stream buffers a mandatory requirement on all streams in Pennsylvania!

Kind regards,

Chelsea Wagner