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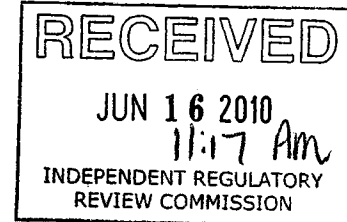
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

2783

June 14, 2010



Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I write today to encourage approval of the EQB's recent revisions to its rules for Erosion & Sedimentation Controls which are to be voted on June 17th. Specifically, I urge passage of Chapter 95 and Chapter 102 revisions including mandating 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

The benefits of stream buffers have been well-documented. Not only is there a widespread consensus of their value in the scientific community, but Pennsylvania's conservation community has also shown a broad and deep support for these rules. Most importantly, for people who choose to live near our waterways, buffers protect property values. They do so by diminishing the likelihood of property damaging flood events, enhancing the scenic beauty, and ensure a recreational value in the waterway.

Additionally, the changes to Chapter 95 would establish a discharge standard of 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 250 mg/L each for Sulfates and Chlorides for natural gas drillers. These standards will go a long way towards ensuring that federal drinking water standards are met across the state for TDS.

Please approve these regulations and allow them to be promulgated by the DEP without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E.G. Staback".

Edward G. Staback, Member