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Chambers, Laura M.

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From: Debby Colgan [debbycolgan@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 6:22 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: comment for Chapter 102 buffers requirements

2009 DEC -1 AM 10: 11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Please see attached for submission to the public comment on Chapter 102 buffers requirements.

Thank you
Deborah Colgan
215-337-9430

Ps Thank you to Laura who called to advise me that faxed comments are not accepted!

November 18, 2009

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 1715-8477

Re: Chapter 103 Buffers requirements

The new DEP proposal that does not mandate streamside buffers by developers must be rethought. A voluntary program will not work.

This is a matter that directly affects public health and safety, which should be a major concern for the DEP and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We need you to protect us.

A lack of appropriate buffers degrades water quality, which impacts our drinking water. Not only does this increase contamination of our drinking water supply, but it increases the costs of water treatment.

A lack of adequate stream buffers also increases flooding problems. Bucks County has had three recent catastrophic flood events. Flooding puts both people and property at risk. It is imperative that the State take actions that will reduce flood dangers.

Naturalized stream banks help absorb high waters and filter impurities in the water. Developers have always had the opportunity to concern themselves with these public health and safety issues, but they have not. Information on best management practices has been widely circulated, so developers are aware. To expect them to now voluntarily comply is not rooted in any factual basis.

In reading DEP published information, it is apparent that DEP understands and supports the importance of high quality riparian buffers. I urge the DEP to mandate appropriate stream buffers for our communities.

Thank you,

Deborah Colgan
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215-337-9430