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

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Board Members:

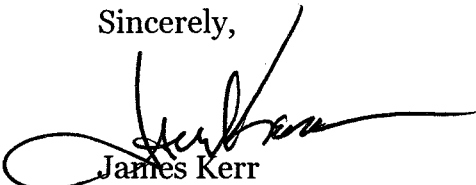
Pennsylvania's streams cannot afford more pollution and runoff, and we cannot afford increased flooding and drinking water treatment costs.

DEP needs 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.. 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 puts rivers and streams at risk, is poor policy, and violates core requirements of the Clean Water Act.

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

Sincerely,



James Kerr
Exton, PA

cc: PA Campaign for Clean Water (amisak@cleanwater.org)
cc: Green Valley's Association