

Chambers, Laura M.

From: PennFuture [pennfuture@pennfuture.org] on behalf of Elizabeth Sterner
[eистерner@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2009 9:44 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Our waterways deserve the best protection

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DEC 7 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Nov 29, 2009

EQB EQB EQB

Dear EQB EQB,

I am pleased to learn that a rule is being considered to improve the state's sediment control and stormwater management. With an increase in natural gas drilling, and the continued threat of factory farming, we must protect our waterways from pollution.

Sadly, the proposed rule does not go far enough. The new rule should:

- Prohibit the use of the permit-by-rule in high quality waters. The

permit-by-rule would fast-track permitting decisions, meaning less time for review and fewer opportunities for public participation. Permits that would impact some of our best rivers and streams require more scrutiny, not less.

- Require riparian forest buffers of at least 100 feet along all of our waterways, including wetlands. The overwhelming body of science supports keeping or creating riparian forest buffers, or greenways, along all of our rivers and streams.

- Require riparian forest buffers of at least 150 feet along all of our

special protection waterways. The proposed rule would mandate 150-foot riparian forest buffers along all of our exceptional value waters, but does not impose a similar requirement along all high quality waters, which also deserve this increased protection.

I urge you to revise the rule consistent with these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elizabeth Sterner
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