

2783



RECEIVED

NOV 30 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

*Serving members since 1912 from Fort Washington to Valley Forge, Conshohocken to Collegeville, Pennsylvania*

**To:** Environmental Quality Board  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

**From:** Albert Paschall, Managing Director/CEO

**Date:** November 22, 2009

**Subject:** Proposed 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102 Rulemaking Comments

RECEIVED

DEC - 9 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the following comments on the proposed 25 PA Code Chapter 102 rulemaking.

As you are aware, businesses and industries within Pennsylvania are suffering through an unprecedented economic downturn in both magnitude and length. These tough times have stressed individuals, businesses and the state/municipal governments. Companies are working very hard to keep their businesses operational and their people employed. I believe these proposed regulations will have the unintended effect of hurting businesses at a time when they are least equipped to deal with this additional burden. Not only will developers and property owners suffer, but also lending institutions, realtors, attorneys, brokers, suppliers, etc.

Many commercial and residential projects approved or in construction have had minimal activity recently. Obviously, if the economy picks up anytime soon, the active status of these projects will allow people to get back to work immediately. Unfortunately, many of these approved projects will need to have their NPDES permits renewed to address these new policy revisions. It will require developers to modify their plans in mid-construction, adding costs and additional infrastructure that they simply cannot absorb. At the same time, the potential reduction in the number of units or total square footage from a project will eliminate a significant amount of asset value of the property.

We have concerns about the proposed buffering requirements. A rigid 150 feet buffer on either side of a stream could significantly diminish the developable area of a property. This seems particularly onerous in areas where redevelopment projects would convert underperforming and blighted properties into valuable assets.

Banks are already struggling with loan performances. These proposed regulations will contribute additional burden and uncertainty to a project's ability to secure and/or maintain financing. If implemented, these changes could potentially push a number of projects into default.

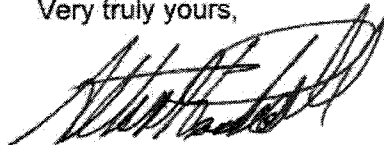
P.O. Box 200 • Eagleville, PA 19408

[www.montgomerycountychamber.org](http://www.montgomerycountychamber.org)

Offices by appointment: The historic King of Prussia Inn • 101 Bill Smith Boulevard • King of Prussia, PA 19406  
610.265.1776 • 610.277.9500 • (fax) 610.265.0473

These are certainly challenging times for all of us. While we support DEP's goal of protecting our environment, we certainly hope they will support the need for economic vitality. Permit extension requirements which mandate the implementation of current regulations for projects already fully approved and under construction and rigid riparian buffers certainly make it difficult for businesses to be successful. These new requirements will have a serious ripple effect across every industry and will result in greater and continued stress on the citizens and governments of Pennsylvania. I hope that you would consider alternative methods to achieve a common goal for all.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Matt H..." with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc: State Senator Daylin Leach