



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

Room 169 • State Capitol Building
Mailing address: Senate Box 203021 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3021
Phone: 717-787-9684 • FAX: 717-787-6088 • energy@senate.pa.gov

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December 1, 2009

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John Hanger, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
15th Floor Rachel Carson Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

**Re: Proposed Rulemaking – Outdoor Wood-
Fired Boilers (#7-444)**

Dear Chairman Hanger:

I am writing to offer comments for the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) consideration regarding the above-referenced proposed rulemaking.

First, I am very concerned with the proposal to prohibit the use of outdoor wood-fired boilers (OWB) during summer months. Numerous constituents have contacted me who use their OWB to heat their water. They would incur great expense and inconvenience should they be prohibited from using their OWB during summer months. Many of these residences are located in very rural areas, where the OWB already has little if any impact on a neighboring property.

I am also concerned about the potential incremental cost of purchasing Phase 2 OWBs. I encourage the EQB and the Department to examine and document these costs, as well as the potential fuel savings to homeowners that may recoup some of this additional upfront investment.

Additionally, the proposed rulemaking states that a new Phase 2 OWB must be installed at least 150 feet from a property line. Are there any exemptions to this setback? Further, the proposed rulemaking states that a stack must be installed at least 2 feet above the highest peak within 150 feet of the OWB. If there are no exemptions to the 150 feet property line setback, why is this provision necessary since there are presumably no residences located within this distance? Finally, is the stack height requirement applicable to the OWB owner's own residence, or only to neighboring property owners? I hope these questions will be clarified prior to issuance of a final rulemaking.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo White

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee