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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

17 Dec 09

Dear Environmental Quality Control Board,

I have chosen to heat my home and my father's home (across the country road from my home) with an outdoor wood furnace.

The proposed regulation for "outdoor wood-fired boilers" as written will greatly affect our ability to continue using our outdoor wood-fired boiler/s.

The excessive chimney height requirement and the excessive distance requirement between the unit and residence/s will force me to discontinue the use of these two units and put me into an excessive financial hardship.

The investment to install the two units was substantial. I priced out and installed these units in the spring/summer of 2008 when home heating oil prices climbed over \$4.50 per gallon. As of this letter, the price of home heating oil is about \$2.00 per gallon less than that highest price extending my return on investment, but a price I must accept. Losing the ability to use of these two units with no further return on investment is unacceptable.

I installed these units when there were no requirements on chimney heights or distance from residences. The emissions from either of these units do not impose upon anyone. My residence and my father's residence, and the outdoor wood-fired boiler/s are within eyesight of each other, but still more than 400' apart. There are also topographical differences between our houses that would require the chimney on his unit to be 80' high since the unit is less than 500' from my house. In our rural setting there are no other residences within eyesight of either outdoor wood-fired boiler. The nearest other residence is more than 1000' away from either my or my father's outdoor wood-fired boiler.

I know there are outdoor wood-fired boilers which have been installed which impose nuisance emissions upon neighboring residences elsewhere, but please don't make blanket regulations with no flexibility for unique settings such as I have described above.

It is unreasonable for the PA DEP to retroactively impose restrictions on my existing outdoor wood-fired boilers which were purchased, installed, and operated prior to the drafting of the regulation.

Sincerely,

*Myrl F. Kibbe*  
MYRL F. KIBBE

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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express mail:  
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400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

Or

Email: [RegComments@state.pa.us](mailto:RegComments@state.pa.us).

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Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I have chosen to heat my home with an outdoor wood furnace for a number of good reasons:

- With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option – an owner that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars a year on home, farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans from as far back as colonial times.
- Heating with an outdoor wood furnace eliminates the risks of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning associated with an indoor heating system because the appliance is located outside. Every year literally thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fires caused by indoor heating devices.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas emissions.

The proposed regulation for “outdoor wood-fired boilers” has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements for existing and new furnace installations that are not based upon science.
  - Excessive chimney height requirements are costly (parts and height determination), time consuming and may prevent a large number of owners from being able to comply.
- Seasonal prohibition between May 1 and September 30. A statewide seasonal restriction for rural owners, people with their own wood lots, farming operations, greenhouse operations is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential sized appliances because opacity is a subjective visual observation.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the Pa DEP to retroactively impose restrictions (with the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing outdoor wood furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed, and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of the regulation.

I am opposed to the excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. If passed as currently written, I believe that the regulation will adversely impact my rights and the rights of existing outdoor wood furnace owners that use these appliances in a responsible manner. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable.

Sincerely,

Myrl F Kibbe

Date: 17 Dec 09

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