

From: stopwoodsmoke@woodsmokefreeny.com
 Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:40 AM
 To: EP, RegComments
 Subject: PA OWB pending regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board

I am a resident of NY and also reside in PA on a part time basis. I would like to take a moment of your time to express my concerns and suggestions regarding your pending PA OWB legislation.

- 1) Outdoor wood fired boilers cannot coexist in residential areas. They are more appropriate for agricultural properties and large parcels of land, no smaller than 10 acres, due to the excessive amount of non stop smoldering smoke they produce.
- 2) Stack height is irrelevant as you must consider wind direction, wind velocity and weather conditions, including temperature. Take into consideration warm air, damp air, inversion; smoke mixes with this air and produces smog that hugs the ground, making it almost unbearable for nearby residents to enjoy their property and health rights.
- 3) Setback of 500 feet is insufficient to protect neighboring properties. Wood smoke and harmful PM travels much further than 500 feet. At times it lingers, wafts and surrounds homes, infiltrating homes through cracks, windows, doors and normal air exchange. OWBs produce continuous smoke plumes, bombarding neighborhoods with harmful PM that causes illness and exacerbates pre-existing health problem and disease. Wood smoke endangers humans, animals and our entire environment.
- 4) Burning season is a crucial issue and should be strictly limited for all wood burning devices, restricted to November 15th through March 30th. Five months of the year is sufficient for the burning of wood, which should never be a primary source of heat for any home. Clean alternatives that do not annoy and sicken residents are available. OWBs are intended to burn constantly, even in warm weather to produce hot water. Very dangerous for affected residents.
- 5) Wood smoke is a public nuisance, depriving families of the right of enjoyment of their property and health. In fairness to all residents who have the right to breathe clean, fresh, smoke free air and enjoy spring, summer and fall with open windows, minimum acreage requirements and limited burning times must become enforceable law.
- 6) Include "INDOOR" wood fired boilers in your regulations as some OWB users install them indoors, garages, sheds, etc, in order to avoid any regulations.

Unfortunately, many may not realize the harm and distress OWBs inflict upon unwilling residents. This is not a political issue, nor should it be a matter of pleasing wood burners, the industry or lobbyists. Health and welfare of the majority, the general public, must be considered first and foremost when you draft PA wood burning legislation.

I am writing with the very best of intentions. It is my hope you will take my suggestions under serious consideration, as I am an individual who has been negatively impacted by wood smoke infiltration and will continue to oppose OWBs and 24/7 wood burning stoves in residential areas.

Sincerely,

Victoria Valentine

<http://www.woodsmokefreeny.com>