

From: Piepenburg Sheldon [Piepenburg.Sheldon@geoeye.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 8:33 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Changes for Woodburners

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2010 JAN 11 AM 9:35

PA Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477
December, 17th 2009

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RE: Proposed PA DEP rules for Outdoor Wood Fired Boilers

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I recently became aware that PA DEP is proposing rule changes retroactively for owners/operators of outdoor wood fired boilers.

I am strongly opposed to legislation that retroactively affects the use of outdoor wood fired boilers. There is no question that "nuisance use" of wood fired boilers requires attention. However, the proposed changes and legislation does not offer existing woodburner operators "protection" for their investment and or flexibility for rural applications.

I own a very rural property, ~26 acres, the proposed legislation would result in me spending money to conform to rule changes that impact only me. For example specific chimney height rules based on proximity to buildings that I own would require me to spend money to add extensions to my chimney for a problem that does not exist. These blanket changes are not appropriate for residential application opacity levels are not appropriate measures for woodburner applications and seasonal restrictions on the use of wood fired burners are not appropriate for existing rural sites.

Most importantly, I based my decision to purchase and install a woodburner on existing regulations and costs. Retroactive changes that affect my ability use my woodburner result in loss of savings that were part of my purchase decision. Is the State prepared to reimburse me and others for this loss?

State wide regulations that single out rural woodburner applications when the State does not restrict outdoor garbage burning or residential use of coal burners is also not appropriate.

In summation, I am strongly opposed to blanket changes in regulations that affect my existing application.

Sincerely,

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