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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

November 23, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board  
P. O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

**RE: Public Comment on Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers (25 Pa Code, Chapters 121 and 123)**

To Whom it May Concern,

I want to strongly urge the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to proceed with the strongest possible set of regulations regarding the use and operation of Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers. I would specifically recommend the following:

- Strict adherence to dried wood as the only permissible fuel. We live across the street from the owners of an OWB and there have been times when I have seen orange, yellow smoke pouring out of the stack and can smell what I'd swear were burning shingles. We know that they burn a LOT of green wood, for sure. The man owns a tree service so that is how they fuel the thing much of the time, plus who knows what else. Our daughter spends hours and hours on a swing directly fronting their property. What she has been breathing terrifies me.
- Location of the OWB as far away from the property line as reasonably possible—100, 150 feet? We do not have central air conditioning, so we have windows open in summer. Many days during the summer months we are sitting in our living room and are subjected to this foul smoke – in our own home in the middle of the summer on a hot day with no other recourse.
- In fact I do not believe these things should be allowed to burn in the summer months. I understand the DEP is considering a summer – time prohibition on their use. I would strongly urge that you adopt that rule. Indeed, this may be the most important regulation that you are considering.
- Height of the stack should be taller. How tall? That's obviously up to you folks. I would not want to impose an undue and unreasonably burden on OWB owners. However, public health should be the overriding consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important public health issue. I wish I could be at the hearing in Cranberry but my work responsibilities prohibit that. I am available by phone, however, if you should have any questions about our particular situation.

Respectfully,

  
Chris J. Magoc, PhD