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Chambers, Laura M.

From: Bose62 [bose62@wildblue.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 11:25 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Outdoor Wood Boilers Proposed Rulemaking

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Board Members,

I am writing to express my concerns in regards to the proposed rulemaking for Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWB). I would like to say excellent work, it has been a needed for some time. As a neighbor to a residence with an OWB I applaud the work that has been done to minimize the effects of OWB's. I could describe the problems that myself and others have experienced due to an OWB but I am quite sure that you have heard them all already. What I would like to add is that my home is a PPL Four Star Comfort home built in 1989. These homes required higher levels of insulation and sealing to ensure higher efficiency for heating and cooling. Even with additional sealing I can still smell the smoke. My elderly mother, whose house is 1940's vintage, has to endure constant odor and particulate matter on her windows, window sills and porch due to the OWB. Being 80 yrs. old the smoke and odor does affect her. I have two other neighbors who are cancer survivors and have weakened respiratory systems. They too have had problems with the smoke and odor. The OWB has a 10 foot stack and most of the surrounding homes are either higher or lower than the OWB. The smoke drifts everywhere and at times one would think that it is foggy outside when in fact it is the smoke from the OWB. It drifts everywhere. Again, I am sure you have heard similar issues but another note I would like to make is that there is no one we can complain to. The individual with the OWB is a well connected politically in our area. Any complaints would be brushed aside and many fear the possible repercussions that may result in complaining about his OWB. As I see it, the proposed ruling should make it easier for concerned individuals to report issues, if necessary, directly to the state assured that something will be done with non-compliant OWB's.

Additionally, I would like to state that there should be seasonal limits on the use of OWB's. This would help somewhat. Recently we have experienced some warm weather in October and November of this year but we could not open windows to enjoy the mild air because of the smoke.

In closing, I praise the work that you have done in this area and hopefully Pennsylvania will be a better place for it and people can breathe easier. If there is any way that I can be updated with the final passage of the proposed rule please let me know.

Sincerely,

Robert Senick
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12/16/2009