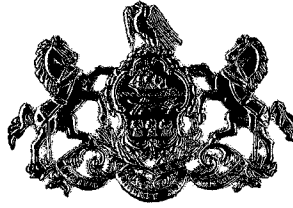


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Senate of Pennsylvania
CHARLES T. MCILHINNEY, JR.
SENATOR

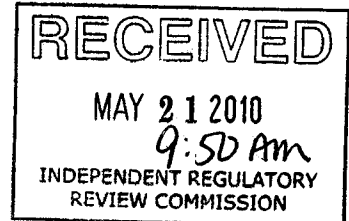
May 19, 2010

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The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I am writing in support of the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) proposal of the final-form regulations to amend 25 *Pa. Code* Chapter 95, which was approved at the May 17, 2010, EQB meeting. I understand that the proposed final-form regulations will generally require new and expanded sources of discharges high in total dissolved solids (TDS) to treat their wastewater before discharging it into waters of this Commonwealth and in doing so will ensure that our waters will not exceed a threshold of 500 mg/l.

I support the amendments to the rulemaking made by the EQB between the proposed regulations and the final-form regulations. The EQB received over 4,200 comments on the proposed regulations, 90% of which supported the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) effort to protect the quality of waters in this Commonwealth. I believe that the sector-based and watershed-based approaches to address TDS are both protective of the environment and supportive of continued economic growth for existing and future industry in the Commonwealth.

I am concerned about discharges of high-TDS wastewater into the Commonwealth's rivers and streams because of the widely-reported episodes of river pollution that have occurred in each of the last two years as a result of high TDS levels in the Monongahela River and its tributary Dunkard Creek. These pollution events demonstrated that high TDS discharges threaten our drinking water and the billions of dollars of direct and indirect economic benefit that the clean water in this Commonwealth provides to our families, farms, and industries.

I urge IRRC to approve the final-form regulations that proposes standards for new and expanded sources of high-TDS wastewater so that the Commonwealth can continue working to reduce the threat that high-TDS wastewaters pose to Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, and also ensure that the cost of protecting our rivers, streams and drinking water supplies from contamination by

TDS will be borne by those who generate the contaminants rather than those who depend on clean water from our rivers and streams for recreation, agriculture, industrial uses, or drinking water. Further, I am hopeful that the proposed effluent standards will strengthen the demand for treatment solutions and technologies that will be met by expertise and industry from within the Commonwealth, which will help position Pennsylvania companies as leaders in supplying new treatment technologies that will create jobs and economic benefits beyond those already expected to be provided by the extraction on natural gas from Marcellus Shale.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I urge you to approve the regulations amending 25 *Pa. Code* Chapter 95 to establish effluent standards for new and expanded sources of high-TDS wastewaters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck".

CHARLES T. McILHINNEY, JR.
State Senator
10th Senatorial District