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

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

December 20, 2009

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

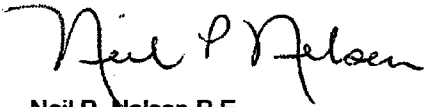
Neil P. Nelsen P.E.
RR#3 Box 8200
Canton, PA 17724-8339

Dear Sirs:

Most residents of north central PA, and I am one, feel that we live in a beautiful part of the world and would like it to stay that way. This area has been pretty much unspoiled, until recently. However, during the past couple of years, since it was determined that natural gas could be economically extracted from the shale that lies underneath us gas wells have been popping up like daffodils in the spring and more are on the way.

Obviously, this activity should provide the local economy a welcome boost so most of us are not opposed in principle to the drilling. We are, however, concerned that the environment – including our water – not be compromised. We expect the PA DEP to provide the necessary oversight to insure that the drillers do everything in their power to insure that our water is protected. According to the information available to the public, it would appear that there is reason to question whether the PA DEP is living up to its responsibility. I have read in various publications that the drilling companies are mixing chemicals with the water they use to fracture the rock to release the gas. The implication of the articles I've read is that these companies are refusing to tell the DEP what these chemicals are and they are being allowed to get away with it. If this is true, I want to register my strong objection. If chemicals are being mixed with water that is pumped into the rock under this area, it's only a matter of time until some of it will find its way into the water table and into someone's well. Please reconsider your position on this and put an end to any well fracturing operations until you have determined what chemicals these companies are using and can satisfy the public that they are safe.

Very truly yours,



Neil P. Nelsen P.E.

Copy: Hon. Tina Pickett
211 Ryan Office Building
PO Box 202110
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2110

Copy: PA State Senator Gene Yaw
Senate Box 203023
457 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3023

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