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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

146 Cattail Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901
23 December 2009

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DEC 30 2009

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

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Water Quality Managers:

I support new water quality standards proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection for total dissolved solids (TDS), total sulfate, total chloride, total barium, and total strontium for Commonwealth waters. May I suggest that waste waters in need of disposal or treatment, where new treatment facilities are not yet available, be transported to power plants or similar facilities near marine aquatic environments for transfer to marine outfalls? These environs are more similar chemically to the waste water than our surface freshwaters. Our freshwater streams and groundwater are more important to protect than the price of natural gas or petroleum products. Since our streams in northcentral Pennsylvania, the epicenter of Marcellus shale drilling activity, typically have even less than 100 mg/L of TDS, we feel particularly vulnerable to the increased gas-development activity in our region. Thank you for protecting this last bastion of pristine, high-quality aquatic environments in Pennsylvania.


Robert M. Ross