

Tate, Michele

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From: Brian Roberts [northtocanada@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 2:25 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comments on Chapter 95 Regulation

2010 JAN 13 AM 11:04

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hello,

My name is Brian Roberts and I would like to offer some comments on Regulations proposed on limiting discharge of Gas well drilling waste and the treatment of the water. I fully support this proposal. I feel it is only right to require the gas drilling companies to fully treat their water in a responsible manner. DO NOT let the fossil fuels industry ruin our waterways once again. Well, no more at least. I need only point you to the situation at Dunkard Creek where toxic algae was introduced by gas drilling companies, and the conditions right for it to bloom were introduced by discharge of waste water high in chlorides by gas drilling companies and coal mining companies combined. To make a long story short, 161 species of fish, 14 species of freshwater mussels (some endangered), and other aquatic creatures such as salamanders were totally wiped out by the toxins the algae produced in a 43 mile stretch of the creek. In total, it killed approximately 22,000 fish. To start, it is gruesome. The algae dissolves exposed cells, in this case, the fish's gills. Basically, the fish will begin to hemorrhage until there is nothing left to breathe with, then it will essentially suffocate right in the water. Just google "Dunkard Creek Fish Kill" if you don't believe me. It is sickening to think that we have to accept that kind of treatment from companies taking OUR resources, interested in nothing more than their own profits. Billions of dollars in profit I may add. The algae is totally alien to this area, and cannot survive in fresh water. Six other waterways close to Dunkard Creek, in West Virginia, tested positive for the algae as well. And, it is nearly impossible to eradicate.

I for one do not want to see this algae popping up all over the state and area because of the greedy fossil fuels companies creating the conditions for it to bloom in other water ways, or transporting this algae into every place it drills. Think for one moment how much profit the over 719,000 fishing licenses purchased in the state of PA generated in 2008. Over 14 million dollars. Add on all of the stamps, permits, non-resident, tourist licenses, and the tax dollars generated from purchases of boats, tackle, bait, prepared food, and room and board, and you have what I believe is over a billion dollar industry in this state. Just imagine that drying up because of toxic algae spreading into waterways that were made cozy for for it by pollution from drilling. Why would you buy a fishing license if there were no fish to catch? Imagine how many of those non-resident licenses you will not sell in the future if the word gets out to people that usually come to fish here about a toxic form of algae proliferatin in Pennsylvania's waterways. This is an unprecedented event as this form of toxic algae has never been found this far north, and it looks like the gas drilling companies are responsible for introducing it and making it able to bloom with their disgusting pollution. Do we really want that? Don't make this state a population of fools again by letting the mining and drilling companies dictate to us what will regulate their removal of OUR resources as what happened in the prior century with coal mining. Look at how many people still think Pittsburgh is a dirty city even today, it's a stigma, that despite the fact it has cleaned itself up, Pittsburgh cannot lose. Why make that stigma a fact? I urge you to let the drilling companies know we will not accept them taking over and polluting the waters of this state now, nor in the future.

Good Day
Brian Roberts