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From: Eric Freed [efreed@mail.nih.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 8:23 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: FORESTcoalition@aol.com
Subject: Marcellus wells

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I have been deeply disturbed by recent developments throughout PA regarding the increased number of Marcellus wells being used to extract natural gas. It is clear that the oil and gas industry is dead-set on abusing PA state forests to turn a quick profit and leave the taxpayer to repair the damage (remember acid mine drainage?). Especially disconcerting is the recent move to gain an exemption from the Federal Clean Air Act for the "frackwater" used in extracting gas from the Marcellus wells. DEP should add discharge standards for those contaminants that are frequently found in Marcellus Shale gas drilling wastewater. These would include bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium, and possibly others. Many of these contaminants are very difficult for drinking water systems to remove. DEP needs to ensure that all aspects of the generation of Marcellus wastewater are regulated. Currently there are no requirements to track wastewater from drilling sites to treatment plants. There should be a "Record of Responsibility", a paper trail of the quantity of frackwater being transported and signed receipts for each delivery. In addition, there should be strict oversight over the reuse of Marcellus wastewater.

I urge immediate passage of regulations that will protect our precious forests from abuse by the oil and gas industry.

Sincerely,
Eric Freed

12/30/2009