

Tate, Michele

From: James Kleissler [jim@blysonhill.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 12:50 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking (25 PA Code Ch 95) Wastewater Treatment Req

RECEIVED

700 JAN 13 AM 11:08

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board

In southwest Pennsylvania, we recently watched a fish kill on Dunkard Creek stretch throughout 42 miles of stream in Greene County, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. While industry is prepared to blame a golden algae bloom for destroying virtually all the aquatic life in Dunkard, it is entirely irresponsible for the rest of us not to recognize that these are the very companies that created the conditions of possibility for that otherwise alien algae bloom. Without extremely high total dissolved solids (TDS) levels, particularly chlorides, golden algae could never have thrived in these fresh mountain waters. Without the dumping of various pollutants, among them wastewater from coalbed methane hydraulic fracturing, Dunkard Creek never would have had these enabling TDS levels.

The DEP's own water quality data reflects that many of the Commonwealth's major watersheds simply cannot assimilate additional TDS, sulfates and chlorides (Proposed Rulemaking, 25 PA. Code Ch. 95, November 11, 2009). This was demonstrated last year when 17 potable water supply intakes in the Monongahela River basin failed to meet water quality standards including high levels of toxic brominated Disinfection By-Products that create increased risk of bladder cancer.

We find ourselves in this situation because the DEP has so long operated by the principle that dilution was an effective treatment for TDS, sulfates and chlorides. Presently, there are no operating facilities in the Commonwealth capable of removing TDS. The first of its kind is currently under construction and expected to be complete by 2011. Meanwhile, gas companies continue to expand their operations and millions upon millions of gallons of water contaminated with high TDS levels will have to go somewhere. In order to treat the total volume of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing we would need over fifty facilities identical to the one currently under construction. If the Commonwealth fails to recognize the need for greater wastewater regulation NOW, we stand a great risk of no longer being able to provide clean, safe drinking water for citizens of the Commonwealth.

We must have safe drinking water. The standing DEP proposal will help to ensure that we have a safe water supply in the coming years.

Industry must be required to cease all polluting operations until the Commonwealth has established clear and sufficient regulations on wastewater management that bear in mind the future security of public health and our most vital natural resource?water.

Moreover, 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.

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, and there is no oversight over the reuse of Marcellus wastewater. These are gross short-comings that put the public health of Pennsylvania citizens at risk for years to come.

It is an excellent beginning to limit new discharges into the waters of the Commonwealth. The DEP also needs to consider limiting the existing discharges. If the recent pollution events in the Monongahela River basin, South Fork of Ten Mile Creek, and Dunkard Creek have demonstrated anything, it is that the existing allowances are already beyond the capabilities for assimilation by dilution. Clearly, we are already well beyond safe TMDL's for TDS, sulfates and chlorides.

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From: John Moyer [jemoyer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 2:14 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking (25 PA Code Ch 95) Wastewater Treatment Req

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Tate, Michele

From: Phillip Coleman [philipy@zoominternet.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 9:27 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking (25 PA Code Ch 95) Wastewater Treatment Reg

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7:20 JAN 13 11:11:12

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
TECHNICAL COMMISSION

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RECEIVED
 2009 JAN 13 AM 11:12
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 DEPARTMENT

From: Michael Szymanski [microqemas@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 7:19 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking (25 PA Code Ch 95) Wastewater Treatment Req

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