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From: Julie Elkins [jae917@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 1:09 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Environmental Quality Board: Please protect our water!

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
ENERGY COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I am writing in support of proposed DEP regulations concerning the hydrofracturing process and handling of frac water. Please, do not buckle to lobbying gas companies; do everything in your power to protect the environment, and thus, the people and communities in Pennsylvania from the harmful repercussions of Marcellus drilling.

Our water resources are critical to our health and ecology. If these resources are contaminated with chemicals, radioactive materials (found in tests to be present in water used in Marcellus drilling), and salt water, it will cause permanent damage to our region. Contaminated frac water will alter the ecosystem, allowing invasive species to move in while hurting native plant and wildlife. This ecosystem alteration will disfigure Pennsylvania's beautiful landscape and tamper with our economic prosperity.

Moreover, and most importantly, contamination of our groundwater and drinking water sources will cause the population to suffer from acute, chronic, even terminal forms of illness. The fleeting favor that accompanies pandering to industry lobbyists is not worth the cost of millions of dollars spent on health care and the loss or deterioration of human life. Our best solution for the health care situation in our country is to stop disease at its source. Water- so vital- is a life-giving, life-sustaining substance, but if it is contaminated, water can just as easily strip life and wellness away. To protect human life, we must give utmost precedence to the quality of our freshwater resources.

Therefore, I implore of you: Please make every effort to protect our natural resources, and especially our freshwater resources, in the state of Pennsylvania. Not only should current DEP regulations be adopted and steadfastly enforced, the DEP should constantly seek new ways to cut off contamination and mishandling at every point, every loophole. The extra regulations and costs imposed on the Marcellus drilling companies are worth the greater, long-term effect of protecting our communities' resources and well-being for present and future generations.

With sincerest hope that our state government will do everything in its power to serve the present and future of Pennsylvania,

Julie Elkins