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From: Marian Freed [mtfreed133@yahoo.com]
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To: EP, RegComments
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Subject: Marcellus wells

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

The damage that is being done by the oil and gas industry in the extraction of natural gas in Pennsylvania is nothing short of catastrophic! The recent exemption from the Federal Clean Air Act for the "frackwater" used in the process of drilling demands a cry of alarm and an immediate establishment of standards and requirements designed to protect Pennsylvania's drinking water and rivers and to ensure that strict oversight of all aspects of the drilling and extraction be firmly in place.

Specifically, it is urgent that there be no unsafe levels of total dissolved solids, known as TDS. Special attention must be paid to the bromides and to arsenic, benzene, radium, and magnesium, contaminants known to appear frequently in Marcellus Shale gas drilling wastewater and very difficult if not impossible for drinking water systems to remove. The DEP must insist that standards be adhered to, and that the oil and gas industry provide detailed proof that such is the case. Proof that the regulations are being followed could take the form of a "Record of Responsibility" -- a paper trail indicating the quantity of frackwater transported, with signed receipts for each delivery. It is urgent that no more drilling permits be granted until wastewater standards, rules and regulations are established and followed.

Pennsylvania resources have been abused many times in the past, alas, by industries more interested in a quick profit than in ensuring the long-term health of the environment and its eco-systems. Some effects have been clearly visible, some less so. Acid mine drainage is a good example of what can go wrong!

There is no time to lose! I urge you to act quickly and deliberately to establish firm rules and regulations, and to ensure the oversight necessary to protect the well-being of all of us.

Sincerely,

Marian Freed
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