

(53)

RECEIVED

Tate, Michele

From: Mark Ott [mott@beasd.org]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2009 8:24 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Marcellus Wastewater Regulation

2009 JAN 13 AM 11:11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
FORUM COLLABORATION

PA DEP Environmental Quality Board,

As DEP considers Marcellus wastewater regulation, they need to keep the environment of our state in the forefront of importance. As a landowner who has leased gas rights to a producer, I educated myself on the pitfalls of gas leasing, joined a landowner group which negotiated our leases as a group. We were able to get our amendments to the leases placed in the lease thereby protecting our various areas of concern. Our group ended up with 22 amendments on the lease.

DEP needs to do the same thing as they work on regulations. Like the landowner group, they should treat the gas companies with suspicion and care. The gas companies are wont to take advantage of the uninformed and have done so across the state. The State itself (DEP) should ensure that it is not treated as an ignorant landowner. The gas company lobbyists are much like snake oil salesmen and have only the fiscal interests of their respective companies and industry in mind. Regulation will not weaken the industry nor will it cause the industry to abandon the Marcellus gas in the state. Despite the recent dip in prices due to the economy, the general cost of fuel will continue to rise as will the value of this resource beneath our feet. The gas industry as well as the Commonwealth of PA can well afford to regulate (and TAX) this resource so that all Pennsylvanians benefit from continued enjoyment of our great outdoor resources as well as the drinking water we consume.

We need safe drinking water! DEP's proposal will go a long way towards ensuring that our drinking water supplies will not have unsafe levels of total dissolved solids (TDS). DEP should not weaken their proposed discharge standard for TDS.

We need these regulations to be in place as soon as possible to protect our rivers and drinking water. DEP should stop giving out more drilling permits until wastewater rules are in place. DEP should also stop allowing existing or proposed wastewater plants to pollute our rivers unless they follow these new rules.

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.

Please do the right thing and ensure that we do not reverse the recent and continuing improvement of our waters by allowing the gas industry to run roughshod over our state. Let them know that Pennsylvania cares about it's environment and will not tolerate standard operating procedures that disregard the quality of life, water and environment we enjoy in the commonwealth.

Mark Ott
748 Gravel Point Road
Howard PA16841
814-625-2741