



RECEIVED

Tate, Michele

From: Tom Baumgardner [2kiteboy@embarqmail.com] 10 JAN 13 AM 11:13
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 10:10 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Clean Water

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Gentlemen,

Water is one of most valuable resources and we can't afford to waste it. With global warming will come flooding of our countries costal areas and with that will come loss of clean water to those costal areas. When those costal areas are in search of clean water, states like Pa. will be in a unique position, to sell water to some of these areas, even to areas like Philadelphia. That is unless we squander that resource by allowing it to be polluted by softening our clean water regulations. Lobbyists for the natural gas companies are trying to do that right now. Marcellus Shale gas drilling wastewater needs to be regulated to protect this valuable resource. We don't need to repeat history like that of the strip mine era. Strip miners raped our lands and left the burden of clean up to the State. Acid mine drainage has been a huge problem and continues to be a problem. The millions of gallons of frackwater produced from Marcellus Shale gas drilling needs to be tightly controlled or we will see far greater damage than the strip mining operations ever produced. Contaminates like bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium, and others, could and will be required to be dealt with. It is a fact that many of these contaminants are very difficult for drinking water systems to remove. If we can't remove them our water will become a liability not an asset. We could go from a state that is a water supplier to a state dependent on others for our precious drinking water. We will see ours streams and lakes polluted and the loss of suitable habitat for fish and recreation. Now is not the time for removing clean water regulations, but for strengthening them. Unless we act now and unless we act strongly, we may see the end to clean water in this state. The last thing we want is this state's water supply to be another Love Canal. Times are tough, but these tough times could pale to the tough times we and our future generations might face if we allow our clean water to be polluted. Without tougher regulations the gas drillers will make their money and move on, leaving us with a mess. With tougher regulations now, they will need to solve their own problems and they will need to spend some of their profits for their own cleanup. Don't let them continue to buy off our politicians. Thank-you.

Thomas Baumgardner