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From: William Ferguson [wferguson@jsasd.k12.pa.us] 2009 JAN 13 AM 11:13
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2009 12:02 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: James Smith; 'William Bailey'
Subject: Chapter 95 Regulations

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

As a resident of the West Branch Susquehanna Watershed, I am concerned anytime activity within the watershed has the potential to impact this watershed in a negative way. Obviously, the drilling and extraction of Marcellus Shale Gas has a huge potential for impact of the West Branch watershed as well as the greater Susquehanna and Chesapeake basin.

I URGE PA DEP to think *first and foremost* of preservation of our groundwater and surface water resources. Do not bow to pressure from big energy to relax environmental standards. The legacy from this extraction will directly impact the health and quality of life for residents of this Commonwealth long after the last cubic foot of gas has been extracted.

1. DEP should not weaken their proposed discharge standard for TDS!
2. Do not allow existing or proposed treatment facilities to treat or release treated frackwater until the facility meets the proposed discharge standards. Issue NO NEW DISCHARGE PERMITS until discharge standards are established.
3. Add discharge standards to address contaminants typically found in frackwater including, but not limited to: bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium and magnesium.
4. Take action to ensure that all aspects of the generation of Marcellus wastewater are regulated. Track wastewater from drilling sites to treatment plants. Create a "Record of Responsibility", a paper trail of the quantity of frackwater being transported and signed receipts for each delivery. Strictly monitor and regulate the reuse of Marcellus wastewater as well.

Marcellus shale gas is a needed energy resource. It is going to be extracted. The question that PA DEP needs to address is how will our regulation (or lack thereof) of the extraction process impact the Commonwealth and its citizens now and in the future? We are still paying the environmental bills for the coal mining of the last century. Will "frackwater" and "TDS" become the new AMD? Have we learned the environmental lessons of the past? Can we make the future "different"?

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12/30/2009