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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010 8:17 AM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Proposed Chapter 95 regulations

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2010 JAN 15 PM 1:51

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Please be tough on Marcellus gas drilling regulations in Pennsylvania. The health of our beautiful landscape, streams and waterways is at stake!

Marcellus "frackwater" must be monitored via a chain of responsibility (cradle to grave) of signed paperwork documenting the origin, use, flowback, transportation, treatment and disposal of all frackwater fluids. This monitoring must include all fluids (aqueous and air) and solids origination in the frackwater

Our streams cannot be dumping grounds for frackwater. We must have a standard for Dissolved Solids allowed in our water. A TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) limit of 500 mg/L for TDS and 250 mg/L each for Sulfates and Chlorides is needed to meet Federal drinking water standard. DEP should not weaken their proposed discharge standard for TDS.

We need these regulations to be in place as soon as possible to protect aquatic life and drinking water sources. DEP should stop issuing more drilling permits, which increase existing wastewater loads in Pennsylvania streams, until Chapter 95 revisions are in place. DEP should also stop allowing existing or proposed wastewater plants to discharge TDS at levels above the standards established in these Chapter 95 revisions. The effective date should not be extended to accommodate the time frame necessary for a new facility to acquire all necessary permits (such as those for air quality).

Wastewater Reuse: DEP needs to ensure that all aspects of the generation of Marcellus wastewater are regulated. Currently there is little oversight over the reuse of Marcellus wastewater and whether in fact this is a waste disposal method as opposed to closed loop water recycling.