
From: pygmynut@comcast.net
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To: EP, RegComments
Subject: clean water - chapter 95 water regulations

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear State Legislators,

For the future of our state's economy and our children we must preserve the quality of our streams. Please do not repeat the mistakes made with improper handling of acid mine drainage that still impairs 3000 miles of streams in our beautiful state.

We must learn from past history and regulate the treatment & disposal of Marcellus wastewater.

DEP's Proposed Chapter 95 regulations should include:

Monitoring of Marcellus "frackwater" 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 originating 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. The standard for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) should be stated as a daily maximum, not a monthly average.

In addition, there should be a minimum requirement that all discharges not cause background in-stream concentrations of TDS to rise above 133% of background levels

DEP's proposed definition of large TDS sources is good. Do not change it. That proposed regulation is a good means to prevent impairment and regulation of TDS prior to having to utilize a TMDL process.

The only suggestion would be to clearly state the 2,000 mg/L concentration threshold as a daily maximum. That daily maximum should not be allowed to be circumvented by dilution.

All large TDS sources should be covered by the standard. New sources and new discharges at existing sources should be covered immediately. Existing sources of large TDS discharges should be eventually covered through the NPDES permit renewal process.

How TDS will be measured and reported by dischargers should also be clarified.

DEP has not proposed standards for a number of contaminants that are frequently found in Marcellus wastewater. If DEP feels there is not sufficient data to determine the frequency and levels

of contaminants in Marcellus wastewater streams, it should conduct further sampling and analysis.

DEP should add discharge standards for bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium and Volatile Organic Compounds.

Due to the highly varying toxicity of both TDS discharges and especially Marcellus wastewater, Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing should be required utilizing both an acute and chronic toxicity standard.

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.

We are avid birdwatchers and conservationists.

Sincerely,
Lisa Tull
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