

From: pond5847@ptd.net
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 3:03 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: RE: Comments on 25 PA. CODE CH. 95-Wastewater Treatment Requirements

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Secretary Hanger,

I am 63 and moved to PA to live out my last years. It is beautiful here and looks a lot like my original home state of KY. It never occurred to me that I would have to fight for my ability to have water that was not contaminated to drink, to do laundry, to bathe and to cook with. But here I am in the New York watershed and Chesapeake and Hess have both called me to sign contracts. I am surrounded by people who have signed. The person next to me will have two wells that will go under my land. They will also go under Duck Harbor Pond and the small wetlands pond adjacent to my land. This whole area is going to become "Love Canal".

My water comes from an aquifer that 650 feet down. Their wells will go down over a mile and a half and then turn parallel to the ground in whatever direction they wish. The fracking fluids are carcinogenic and volatile. The combination of these unknown fluids explode and force the gas up through the cracks it creates in the rock. However, that gas and those chemicals come up through those cracks too. Right into my drinking water. There was an original hemlock forest here that went into making the buildings of New York City. Now, the trees will disappear to become gas wells. They do not provide jobs to locals, they bring in people that have dubious lives that affect the local economy. This is not what I bought my land for.

In the next few years, we will be fighting over water. It has already started in the middle east with the "water refugees". Our ground water is declining. Philadelphia is down stream from me. They have received a warning about their drinking water last year. The oil drilling has not started here yet except for one well (I am south of Dimock). What do you think that city (Philadelphia) is going to do when the Delaware river and streams are polluted? Or, New York City when all those people do not have safe water. Fighting... over water. Our precious resource. Please protect our drinking water. Of, by and for the people.

There are other ways to drill and be safe. Why do they have to use these dangerous chemicals? Get rid of their loophole. My home is going to look very different in 10 years. It won't be worth anything. Who pays for that? Who fixes my water when it is poisoned?

Where do they dispose of this poisoned waste? Town water plants? Honesdale has found chemicals in their town water already. Are we just expendable? Who will be at fault? Do I sign a contract? Do I as a single person refuse? How do you fight such a large issue? You have the responsibility to see that this water issue does not damage the people in this state. They can use other methods and there are other methods. They just chose the most dangerous without regard to safety.

Please protect our drinking water.

As the Department of Environmental Protection considers new wastewater regulations, I urge you to include the following points:

* Set health-based standards for contaminants including arsenic, benzene, radium and magnesium that may be found in wastewater gas drilling.

* Approve and implement these standards as soon as possible in order to protect public health and our environment.

* Stop all new gas drilling operations until these new health-based standards are set and require all sewage treatment plants to follow these proposed standards immediately.

* Require drilling companies to track and report all of their pollution from drilling sites to treatment plants, and establish regulations to oversee the reuse of gas drilling wastewater. The public has a right to know about pollution being released into our environment or shipped into our communities.

Sincerely,

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