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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: 25 PA Code Ch. 95 Wastewater Treatment Requirements

Of all the places I have worked in my ten year career, from Texas to Ontario, I have always found my home state of Pennsylvania to be the most pleasant. And as the grandson of Pennsylvania farmers I hope to some day retire to a simple life here. Unfortunately my current well being as a resident of Pennsylvania and my future dreams are threatened by shoddy regulation and short term thinking. I am not going to deny that extraction of gas from the Marcellus Shale could be a benefit to the region but it will only benefit us if we take proper and reasonable precautions ensuring a future for residents of Northern Pennsylvania.

In my career I have had the opportunity to consult for a number of geological engineers and the ones that were not in it for a quick buck all agreed that getting wastewater right was tricky and important. In particular they would have agreed with the Sierra Club's assertion that regulations must be in place before extraction begins. To do otherwise increases costs for the extraction companies, exposes them to future liability and endangers the public. In looking to the future I hope to avoid seeing the Susquehanna Valley turn into the post mineral extraction wasteland that is Eastern Texas so I must ask you to create regulations that specifically:

- 1) That regulations be established to limit and mitigate any increase in total dissolved solids in our watersheds and water supplies.
- 2) That the DEP monitor the whole range of potential contaminants that might result from drilling operations including radium and benzene.
- 3) That the DEP establish a framework for tracking wastewater to from creation to treatment and enforce strict compliance.

With smart regulation we can build a better future for Pennsylvania thus I ask you to make the right choice for the future on 25 PA. CODE CH. 95 and opt for strong protections for the public and our shared resources.


Tom Egan