

From: wendy chou [ww.chou@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 9:17 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Please maintain stringent standards on the Susquehanna

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board Members,

The Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay are critical water resources to be protected for use by future generations. To help ensure this legacy, I am writing to urge you NOT to amend 25 Pa Code Chapter 95 (relating to Wastewater Treatment Requirements). The proposed amendments include the establishment of new, LESS stringent effluent standards for new sources of waste waters containing high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentrations.

High TDS concentrations are harmful to many fresh water species, resulting in a shift in biotic communities and increased instability of these vulnerable systems. Studies show that other watersheds in Pennsylvania (e.g. the Monongahela River) are already being adversely impacted by TDS discharges due to inadequately filtered wastewater discharges from gas drilling operations.

Additionally, watershed analyses conducted by the PA DEP indicate that the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and the Moshannon River Watersheds are severely limited in their capacity to assimilate new loads of TDS and sulfates, primarily due to acid mine drainage from long-abandoned coal mines--a legacy of Pennsylvania's last energy rush. Both contaminants would be released in higher levels if 25 Pa Code Chapter 95 is amended. Additionally, TDS and sulfate loading would reverse years of hard-won progress by the PA DEP in improving water quality in these watersheds.

I have been a resident of the Susquehanna Valley for the past two years and care about the ecological health of the community in which I live. Previously I have been an environmental consultant on water quality issues and obtained a Ph.D. in environmental science and policy. I implore you, please vote "NO" in amending 25 Pa Code Chapter 95. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Chou

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