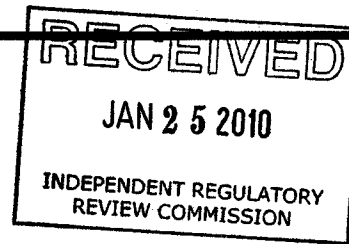


From: Skip Hillier [hhillier@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2010 7:01 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Marcellus Drilling Permitting Process



My concern is that the northeastern corner of Pennsylvania has a major dependence on tourism in the form of fishing and water sports. Also, many of us choose to live here because of a quality of life issue.

When permitting any well we must ensure that the well pad and catch basin are not located where a spill caused by accident or an act of God such as a 100 year rain event could cause the overflow to contaminate a lake, stream, or wetland. We must also not allow storage of waste chemical water underground. We are near an earthquake fault line in southern New York State and we have felt minor tremors here in the past. A significant crack in the shale could result in an entire aquifer being contaminated.

Also, we must protect the Susquehanna River from dumping of minimally treated waste water. The Chesapeake Bay is already in trouble and this river is one of the reasons. Unlike the DRBC, the Susquehanna Commission has much less rigorous requirements and it is going to be a dumping spot for waste water from the entire region.

I recognize the importance to the nation, state, and region of exploiting the gas reserves located here. I am not against drilling. I am against letting the lure of instant wealth and revenue for the state dictating the speed with which we proceed. Neither the gas nor the demand for it is going away in the next few months or even the next year.

The state's historical record with regard to its natural resources is not good. We have finally recovered from the early timber exploitation but we are still paying the price for coal mining. Early signs shout that the Marcellus Shale gas exploitation will not be greatly different. The recent leases for state forest lands were higher than expected and everyone rejoiced but please note that these leases are much lower than similar leases in virtually every other state such as our neighbor to the west, Ohio. One reason for this is our laws in Pennsylvania keep so much information proprietary that it has the result of keeping bids down.

Sincerely,

Harry W. Hillier
537 Torrey Road
Honesdale, PA 18431
hhillier@verizon.net
570 253 2268

Harry (Skip) Hillier
hhillier@verizon.net
253 2268