



From: Lee Hartman [jsff@hughes.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 10:59 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comment Chapter 95 Water Regulations

The gas drilling of Marcellus Shale pose a seroius threat to our drinking water, streams, lakes and rivers and its surrounding environment in Pennsylvania. This past year we have already experienced contamination in our waterways (Dunkard Creek; Stevens Creek to name a few) and ground water from the spillage of frackwater (Dimock, PA well water) and chemicals into the soil. The incidents were from a few drilled wells. Thousands of Marcellus wells are planned for Pennsylvania in the decade ahead. This developement of gas drilling can pose a serious threat to our Pennsylvania waterways, ground water supplies and environment if not addressed.

My questions are "Do we know the long term consequences of what will happen to PA. water supplies"? Has there been a study by the DEP to date? To my knowledge NO study has been done or completed to show what effect drilling in the Marcellus shale drilling/fracking will do to our water and environment. Our streams cannot be a dumping ground for frackwater. The affects from improper drilling and the use of carsinogenic chemicals poured deep into our ground could lead to contaminated ground water in the immediate future that could last for generations to come. We cannot afford to let this happen!

The Water Regulations Chapter 95 now before us for comment must be strengthened to set a standard for Desolved Solids allowable in our water that meet Federal drinking water standard. You cannot weaken the discharge standard for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). A high or erronious discharge can immediately cause irreparable damage to our waterways. 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 (the Delaware River Basin Commission standard).

DEP should also add discharge standards for bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium and Volatile Organic Compounds. Many of these contaminants are toxic to humans and aquatic life and are very difficult for drinking water systems to remove.

I ask that you consider stopping the issuing of drilling permits until we know what long and short term effects will have on our waterways, and until Chapter 95 revisions have been carefully reviewed and strengthened in a manner that protects the intergrity of our waterways and drinking water supplies.

Thank you for this consideration!

Respectfully,

Lee Hartman
Vice President
Friends of the Upper Delaware River