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From: Brady Porter [porterb@duq.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:37 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comments Re: 25 PA. CODE CH. 95-Wastewater Treatment Requirements

FEB 4 - 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

As a Pennsylvania resident and a conservation biologist, I would like to make the following comments on the new proposed wastewater rules (Chapter 95):

We need safe drinking water! DEP's proposal of 500 mg/L for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and 250 mg/L each for Sulfates and Chlorides will go a long way towards ensuring that our drinking water supplies will not have unsafe levels of TDS and these other contaminants. DEP should not weaken their proposed discharge standard for TDS.

We need these regulations to be in place as soon as possible to protect our rivers and drinking water. DEP should stop giving out more drilling permits until wastewater rules are in place. DEP should also stop allowing existing or proposed wastewater plants to pollute our rivers unless they follow these new rules.

DEP should add discharge standards for those contaminants that are frequently found in Marcellus Shale gas drilling wastewater. These would include bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium, and possibly others. Many of these contaminants are toxic to humans and very difficult for drinking water systems to remove.

DEP needs to ensure that all aspects of the generation of Marcellus wastewater are regulated. Currently there are no requirements to track wastewater from drilling sites to treatment plants, and there is no oversight over the reuse of Marcellus wastewater.

We should make no mistake: the current rush to extract gas from Marcellus shale is happening only because there are few regulations in place that make these companies liable for the environmental destruction that will take place. This is the single largest assault on our environment since the coal and steel industry killed every living thing in our great rivers.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brady A. Porter
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Duquesne University

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