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From: David Badger [Dave_Badger@verizon.net]
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To: EP, RegComments
Subject: marcellus shale drilling

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Just a few comments regarding Marcellus Shale Drilling in our state forests. My biggest concern is the lack of oversight to ensure drillers aren't cutting corners and doing things in a half-assed manner. I don't think DEP has anywhere near the personnel needed to police these sites. Harrisburg is salivating over the millions they will be pulling in and they're rushing things too much. Strict regulations and enforcement are necessary to ensure we don't have an ecological disaster on our hands. PA should follow NY states lead. Slow the process down; make sure the drilling is done correctly with as little environmental impact as possible. County officials should be a part of the entire process. The more vigilance the better. The state has rolled back regulations and oversight to make our land more palatable to the gas developers and it's bullshit.

Also, what about sensitive species like the timber rattlesnake and northern copperhead? Some of the well sites will undoubtedly impact prime timber habitat. Will drillers be alerted to their possible presence and encouraged not to take a shovel to 'em? And after the wells are capped, will access roads be gated to keep A.T.V.s out to prevent poachers and other unscrupulous people from easily reaching areas that were once inaccessible?

I understand the need for jobs in PA and I've accepted the fact that drilling is going to happen, but let's make sure it's done with the utmost care to ensure the safety of our forests and waterways and the wildlife that inhabit them.

Sincerely,
Dave Badger, DuBois PA