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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: debbiemelone@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 7:27 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comments on Chapter 95

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new proposed wastewater rules (Chapter 95): We appreciate that the DEP is looking at TDS standards, and we support stricter regulations.

We are supporters of the oil and gas industry, but not at the cost of the environment and our water. With a Marcellus well on our property, we've had the benefit of an unusual ringside seat from which we have viewed firsthand the day to day operations of a large oil and gas company and its many subcontractors. This has been an eye-opening experience as we question some of the environmental impacts of operations that we witnessed.

While we support the oil and gas efforts and welcome them to Pennsylvania, it is clear from our experience that companies are often operating and abiding by the lowest regulatory standard that is in place -- not only for water, but in other areas as well. As companies experience competitive pressures, they are faced with the decisions of how much to invest in what they might consider "discretionary" efforts to be environmentally responsible. While we personally want to believe that all companies will voluntarily "do the right thing" when it comes to the environment, giving some teeth to DEP regulations will go a long way to ensure that companies are motivated in a meaningful way to be responsible corporate citizens. While there may be increased costs to businesses, the cost of *not* requiring this is too high to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Please do not weaken your proposed discharge standards. We further encourage the DEP to add discharge standards for additional contaminants frequently found in natural gas drilling wastewater. We hope the DEP will also adopt strict standards for levels of arsenic, benzene, bromides, magnesium, and radium in wastewater.

Our state has been blessed with energy resources that may help our country for years. We've also been blessed with extensive water resources. We hope that the DEP can find a way to help both co-exist. We believe your efforts to strengthen regulations will go a long way toward protecting Pennsylvanians, while encouraging oil and gas companies to accept responsibility for maintaining Pennsylvania's water sources.

Thank you.

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