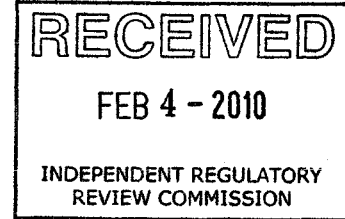


From: PennFuture [pennfuture@pennfuture.org] on behalf of David Cross [kmdmcross@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 1:47 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Proposed Amendments to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95 Establishing Effluent Standards for New Sources of High-TDS Wastewaters



Feb 3, 2010

Environmental Quality Board Environmental Quality Board

Dear Environmental Quality Board Board,

I am writing in support of regulations to reduce the risk that total dissolved solids (TDS) pose to our rivers and streams. Pennsylvania's rivers and streams provide billions of dollars of direct and indirect economic benefit to the Commonwealth's families, farms, and industries.

Recent developments have shown such benefits to be threatened to a greater extent now than perhaps at any time since the clean water laws were strengthened in the late 1960s in response to then-existing pervasive industrial pollution. These regulations are needed to address this threat, and to protect our waterways.

Over the next several years, increased development of the natural

gas-bearing shales in Pennsylvania threatens to exacerbate this problem in rivers and streams throughout the state.

Gas wells and drilling operations in the Commonwealth of PA. are expected to increase exponentially from the 300 that exist today, a modern day "gold rush."

In addition, the drilling companies (all from states other than PA.) are not required to disclose to the public the chemicals that they are using to mix with the water in the high pressure "fracking" process. Only 40% of the chemicals in the water injected into the ground are extracted and removed for treatment. The other 60% remains in the ground.

We are on the cusp of what could be an environmental disaster that our children and grandchildren will inherit years down the road.

But the rules should go even further than they do. The rules should eliminate the threshold at which these standards apply so that treatment is done consistently no matter how big or small the amount of wastewater. In addition, the proposed effluent standards should be applied to existing polluters when their permits are renewed or modified, as well as to new sources of pollution.

I fully support DEP's efforts to establish effluent standards for new sources of wastewaters containing high concentrations of total dissolved solids and urge the DEP to go even further in protecting our waterways.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Cross
 3817 Cloverfield Rd
 Harrisburg, PA 17109-2543