

FEB 4 - 2010

From: Gerard Baroffio [jerry@amerikohl.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 2:48 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: 25 Pa Code Chapter 95 Wastewater Treatment Requirements

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence is directed to those officials of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection involved in the debate over the new TDS proposed rulemaking changes. As a citizen of Pennsylvania, I am extremely concerned that enacting the changes that are being contemplated will devastate the Coal Industry in Pennsylvania and along with it the thousands of jobs that will be lost for those employed directly by coal companies as well as the thousands more jobs at risk for loss within the numerous industries which support mining. It seems as though the Coal industry is being targeted specifically, but many other industrial facilities not targeted directly by this policy change will also suffer huge costs of compliance, which will likely lead to a mass exodus to friendlier states and countries of our stable, well paying, family supporting mining, quarrying, power plant, gas and oil drilling and manufacturing jobs. The trickle down effect throughout the families and the communities they live in and support will negatively change the economic and social landscape of Pennsylvania forever. It is my personal point of view that if this policy is adopted, we will look back years from now and point to this as the beginning of economic ruin for much of our State.

The data being evaluated is far from complete and conclusive. More work needs to be done according to objective scientific standards before any new policies and standards are put in place. There are legitimate dissenting views like those researched by the West Virginia University Water Research Institute who's monitoring of the Mon River at Point Marion, Pa from 1999-2006 actually showed declining trends in chlorides, sulfates and TDS concentrations. Proposed water treatment options are extremely expensive and unproven in real life situations.

Our coal industry is committed to keep Pennsylvania and the United States competitive by insuring a low cost source of fuel for our Electric Power Plants, Industrial coal users and Steel Making Facilities. Less utilization of the energy resources we possess in America means more reliance on Foreign Oil and the potential funding and proliferation of those who are determined to do us harm. With respect to environmental stewardship, the domestic Coal Mining industry has come a long way in the past 30 or so years and is committed to working with the regulatory agencies to insure environmentally sound mining and reclamation practices. It is my recommendation that DEP puts any decision relating to this matter on hold until the facts are clear and all voices are heard.

Respectfully
Gerard P Baroffio
Butler, Pa

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4815 (20100128)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>