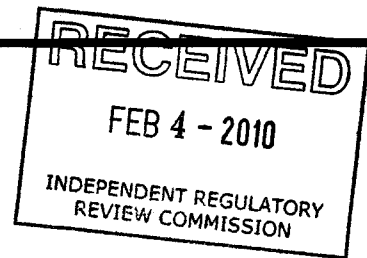


From: Rebecca Maxwell [rickandrebecca@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:10 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Water issues dealing with gas drilling.



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express concern over many aspects of the expanding gas drilling procedures in Pennsylvania. Our legislature should have insisted that a severance tax be included with any drilling permits to help ensure that some funds would be available to cover not only pollution problems, gas monitoring processes but money to enhance the state's general fund. Gas lobbyists apparently worked a true sweetheart deal at the expense of the people and environment of Pennsylvania. Consequently, to raise some money from the gas companies for our state budget, our state forests are being systematically sold off for far less than a severance tax would raise. Additionally, there are apparently more environmental issues related to gas fracking than our legislators knew about or simply ignored. As an environmental science and biology teacher, I am very fearful of the potential for very serious water issues, both in terms of maintaining adequate fresh water supplies and high levels of extensive pollution of drilling byproducts. Our forests will suffer vast areas of clear cutting to accommodate increasing numbers of drilling rigs and all of the new roads that will be needed to connect the rigs to the outside world. This whole undertaking is a recipe for major environmental problems to our state with little financial return from the gas companies to remediate or prevent those problems. The gas companies will be huge winners while the people and environment of Pennsylvania are increasingly more likely to suffer, while our government has done little to provide safeguards or protections for either.

Sincerely, Richard S. Maxwell Jr.