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Environmental Quality Board
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Board Members

I would like to express my support and comments for the

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

[25 PA. CODE CH. 95]

Wastewater Treatment Requirements

[39 Pa.B. 6467]

[Saturday, November 7, 2009]

I have lived in Lancaster Twp., Butler County for 31 years and I would like to express my concerns regarding drilling for gas in the Marcellus shale. There has already been extensive environmental damage and the drilling is just getting started. The EPA recently developed a tipline in response to public concerns. The drilling needs to be done in a safe manner with appropriate oversight by DEP. I believe we should take whatever steps necessary to protect our natural resources. I would support any legislation that protects are water from the negative effects of gas drilling. I am opposed to drilling in our state forests. I am opposed to using revenues from drilling to fund non-conservation programs. I believe there should be a severance tax on drilling and any revenue should go to the Oil and Gas Lease Fund. This has the potential to be as damaging and as everlasting as the strip mines of the past. There are many aspects of the drilling process that negatively impact the environment and create hardships for rural residents such as degradation of roads, noise, water pollution, air pollution, stream degradation, groundwater contamination and private well water contamination. The last issue would affect me directly.

I have a shallow water well and I would like to protect it. There are some who advise to have your well tested in advance and in such a

way that its quality could be proven in court should your well be adversely affected. I have to question this approach. What will I do for water while I'm in litigation? If the drilling is found to be the cause how will the gas company make the well good again? This is unacceptable so I'm compelled to think differently. Is there a water purification system that would take care of any and all contaminants? If so, I may have to invest in one. I would appreciate your advise in this dilemma. The residents of Pennsylvania should not have to go through this. Unfortunately, due to financial hardship or ignorance some residents have signed leases without knowledge of the drilling process. They wanted the free gas or royalties and then there are those who just want to make a quick buck. There needs to be oversight to guarantee safe drinking water and to protect the integrity of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

I understand the need for energy but I wonder, are we sacrificing our water and forests for gas? I don't trust the drillers to be responsible because the rush for money makes for poor judgment. They need to be watched closely. I have supported and will continue to support any legislation that addresses my concerns.

*Respectfully,
Jeff Kunzelman*

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