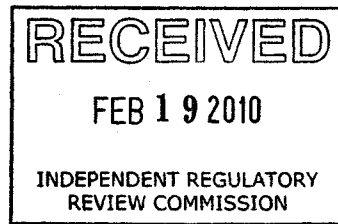


Katherine Shelly
903 Ridge Road
Thompson, PA 18465-9715



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Dear Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board,

As the Department of Environmental Protection considers new wastewater regulations, I urge you to include the following points:

- *Regulatory teeth, not mere lip service to our Penna. Constitutional right of clean water to all citizens
- * Health-based standards for contaminants including arsenic, benzene, radium and magnesium that may be found in wastewater from the gas drilling.
- * Implementing these standards as soon as possible in order to protect public health and our environment.
- * Halting all gas drilling operations until these new health-based standards are set.
- * Requiring all sewage treatment plants to follow the proposed standards immediately.
- * Requiring drilling companies to track and report all of their pollution from drilling sites to treatment plants.
- * Establishing regulations regarding the reuse of gas drilling wastewater.
- * Publishing all pollution incidents.
- * Enlisting Conservation Districts in each affected county to help your 120 DEP well inspectors keep track of the over 800 gas wells, the well pads, gas lines, disturbed soils as these are developed. Conservation District staff and their many local allies will multiply your efforts many-fold for the small additional cost.

I am a member of Farm Bureau and an associate director of Susquehanna County Conservation District, where we had over 100 well sites with competent district oversight before DEP took over. We experienced the change-over and saw how the one guy in Williamsport or Wilkes Barre was able to permit sites in Susquehanna County -- faster than he could have traveled to the site from his office. We KNOW the permits were issued without any site visit. And that is how three drilling lubricant spills occurred within one week on two farms in Dimock Township, where Congressman Chris Carney lives.

I know you are doing what you can from your distance, but you don't have first hand knowledge of the sites and the problems. You don't live with the pollution. We, our livestock and local wildlife do. Northeastern PA has wonderful fresh water in our lakes, ponds, streams and aquifers. Our water is a precious asset. You need to safeguard it better than you have been. Using local eyes and ears, local conservation districts and our allies, will help.

Please take this message seriously.

Sincerely,