



**From:** Sabrina Kirby [sabrina.kirby@bucknell.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2010 11:21 AM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** 25 PA Code Chapter 95

Dear Environmental Quality Board Members,

As a concerned Pennsylvania resident and trout fisher, I write to urge you NOT to amend 25 Code Chapter 95 (relating to Wastewater Treatment Requirements) to allow higher Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentrations in Pennsylvania streams.

From my husband's work as a geochemist, I know that increased total dissolved solids means increased salinity, which threatens the survival of freshwater species of aquatic life. Other watersheds in Pennsylvania are already being adversely impacted by TDS discharges due to inadequately filtered wastewater discharges from gas drilling operations.

Watershed analyses conducted by DEP indicate that the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and the Moshannon River Watersheds are already severely limited in their capacity to assimilate new loads of TDS and sulfates, primarily due to existing acid mine drainage.

To allow an increase in effluent TDS would undo decades of work by groups and individuals who have devoted extraordinary amounts of time, effort, and funds, often at great personal sacrifice, to try to restore stream habitats of trout and other species to the point where they are viable. The impact on quality of life and the economy of rural Pennsylvania of increasing TDS would not be easily undone. The harm to the gas industry of holding a firm line on TDS would be minimal; the harm to Pennsylvania's water quality would be significant and lasting.

**Please vote "NO" in amending 25 Pa Code Chapter 95.**

Sincerely,

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*Inspiration usually comes during work, rather than before it. --Madeleine L'Engle*