

#2806

My comments below are concerning DEP's Chapter 95 proposed revisions. I am unable to attend any of the scheduled meetings.

Let me start off by saying I am relieved the know the DEP is willing to tackle the issue of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in wastewater discharges. As a life long resident, who does not wish to leave anytime soon, the quality of our state's drinking water is a top priority. Without clean and safe drinking water, we would be stuck in a state with no future. This is a vital issue.

I am also thrilled to hear that the DEP has stated that dilution can no longer be considered adequate treatment for high TDS wastewaters. This is a positive step. It means that the DEP is willing to eschew a simple, stop-gap solution to the disposal of TDS in wastewater that will harm our waterways and our own health and will instead stand up for our right to clean drinking water.

I strongly support any and all efforts by the DEP to prohibit new sources of High-TDS wastewaters from Pennsylvania's waters by amending Chapter 95.

My only concern is with the recommended daily limits. The proposed amendments would establish daily maximum effluent standards of 500 parts per million (ppm) for total dissolved solids, 250 ppm for sulfate, and 250 ppm for chloride. In addition, for wastewater from the oil and gas industry, daily maximum effluent standards of 10 ppm for total barium and 10 ppm for total strontium are proposed. I can't help but wonder if they shouldn't be a little bit more stringent. It is your responsibility to set tough standards to protect the citizens of Pennsylvania; it is the oil and gas industry's responsibility to meet the criteria you set forth, not to argue they should be slackened.

I also hope that these numbers will be strictly enforced, and therefore not treated as a joke by the oil and natural gas industry. With Marcellus drilling companies now starting to truck their fracking solution around the state to disperse the solids, I hope that testing will be done state wide.

Again, I want to thank the DEP for taking the effort and time to deal with this problem. I look forward to receiving a copy of your final decision.

Sincerely,

Matt Dallos

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