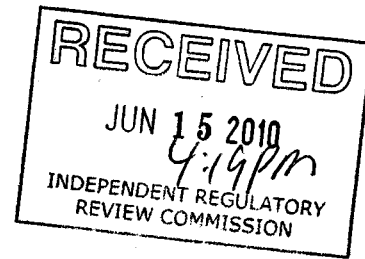




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029



JUN 15 2010

Mr. John Hanger, Chairperson
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Mr. Hanger:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the proposed rulemaking package which was published for public comment in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on May 1, 2010. The proposed amendment would adopt ambient water quality criteria for chlorides to protect aquatic life. A major source of chlorides is the drilling of oil and gas wells. Pennsylvania's proposal is consistent with EPA's current chloride criteria recommendations, and EPA commends the Commonwealth in its efforts to address the increasing concern for the protection of aquatic life due to natural gas extraction from the Marcellus Shale formation.

EPA will be providing a copy of this package to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) so that FWS and NOAA Fisheries may identify any issues with this action. We will notify PADEP of any issues raised. This coordination with the FWS and NOAA Fisheries will fulfill EPA's obligations under the Endangered Species Act, and facilitate EPA's Clean Water Act 303(c) action once this rulemaking is finalized and submitted to EPA for review.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact me at (215)814-5452, or have your staff contact Denise Hakowski at (215)814-5726.

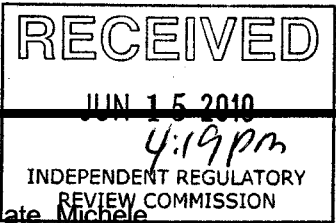
Sincerely,

Larry Merrill, Associate Director
Office of Standards, Assessment and
TMDLs
Water Protection Division

cc: Thomas Barron (PADEP)



2841



From: Barron, Thomas [tbarron@state.pa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 12:00 PM
To: 'Hakowski.Denise@epamail.epa.gov'; EP, RegComments; Tate, Michele
Cc: Merrill.Larry@epamail.epa.gov; McFadden.Angela@epamail.epa.gov; Mackey.Megan@epamail.epa.gov; Aunkst, Dana; Kime, Rodney; Shaw, Tony; McAllister, Rodney; Williams, Amy; Chalfant, Brian
Subject: RE: Ambient Water Quality Criterion; Chloride (Ch) - WRONG e-mail address
Attachments: chloride.prop.com.pdf

Denise,

Thank you for copying me on your comments from Larry Merrill regarding the Ambient Water Quality Criterion; Chloride (Ch), but I want to alert you to the fact that there is a typo in your e-mail address (missing the "s" in Comments) you are using for submitting these Electronic Comments. I have directed your comments to the correct e-mail address via this reply, but since this is the final day of the comment period you may want to resubmit so it is assured they are received by the EQB as official comments. We were informed just yesterday that previous comments submitted in the same fashion regarding the Clarks Creek, et al proposed rulemaking were being deemed unofficial/not received on time, so they will not be considered as part of the official record for that rulemaking. So, I wanted to get back to you ASAP so you still have time to act on this set of comments.

Thank you,

Thomas Barron | Chief, Standards Section Department of Environmental Protection Rachel Carson State Office Building 400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8467
 Phone: 717.787.9637 | Fax: 717.772.3249
www.depweb.state.pa.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Hakowski.Denise@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Hakowski.Denise@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:07 AM
To: RegComment@state.pa.us
Cc: Barron, Thomas; Merrill.Larry@epamail.epa.gov; McFadden.Angela@epamail.epa.gov; Mackey.Megan@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Ambient Water Quality Criterion; Chloride (Ch)

Please see attached comments from Larry Merrill, EPA Region 3, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

(See attached file: chloride.prop.com.pdf)