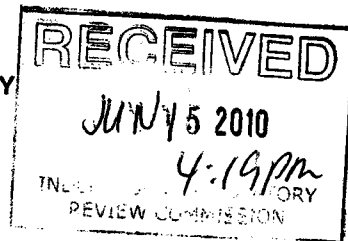




2841

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

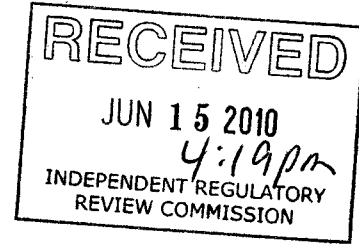
cc: Thomas Barron (PADEP)

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From: Hakowski.Denise@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 12:05 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Ambient Water Quality Criterion; Chloride (Ch)
Attachments: chloride.prop.com.pdf



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

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