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Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 3:55 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: CH78 Regulations

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2010 JUL 27 A 9:30

July 22, 2010

Please, for God's sake, listen to the public. I live at Harveys Lake, the state's largest natural fresh water lake where DEP has maintained a decades long strong presence. We have a mandated public sewer system which currently has a DEP imposed moratorium on new connections due to infiltration problems during storm events. People are prevented from building a simple dock on a pricey piece of shoreline because they may harm plankton. One must jump through hoops to obtain a permit to do anything on this lake. We even have a local ordinance against feeding the ducks because it causes them to stay here, rather than migrate as they should. The pollution from the ducks closed a small section of the lake several years ago. We have an ordinance against port-a-johns/job johnnies!

It is so bizarre and so senseless, too, that DEP will issue gas drilling permits in such close proximity to this lake in nearby Lake, Noxen and Lehman Townships! These are our neighboring and bordering townships. They have a permit issued for a well pad that is less than 1/8 of a mile from this lake! This means they can potentially drill under this glacier formed, spring fed lake. I am so frightened by the potential for this lake to become destroyed. It is a natural wonder, a pristine lake, and may very well be destroyed. So too will our water wells.

I am more fearful now than I was following 911 when the terrorists threatened to poison our water supplies and anthrax our air. At least then we had some government protection. Right now, it seems like we have government sanctioned poisoning of our water and our air, not to mention the environment in general. Money, and the promise of economic prosperity seems to outweigh the devastating environmental consequences this gas industry also brings. We cannot survive without our valuable and scarce clean drinking water! What good will all the money and prosperity be to us?

There have been more than 500 environmental violations this year, and the industry is just getting started! In a 3 day State Police blitz, in conjunction with DEP and EPA, 250 trucks were removed from the roads for violations, as well as 45 drivers. It's hurry, hurry and do things any old way! We don't have nearly enough DEP inspectors or State Police to monitor this industry and the industry knows it. What if a truck carrying toxic chemicals or frac waste water goes off the road here at Harveys Lake and the contents spill into this lake? It's over!

The roadway is winding with blind curves and very narrow! Why do we allow this industry into our small, rural communities to devastate them?

All of it seems like insanity to me, and I have not slept more than 4 hours a night since I began to learn how this industry can destroy an area. I worry for my son and my grandchildren.

We need a moratorium to pause and rethink this whole industry. We certainly need stronger, updated regulations, and to keep them away from our water supplies!

Respectfully,
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