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**From:** wildeyedboy@gmail.com on behalf of William Epting [wepting@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Comments Re: PA DEP EQB proposed amendment to regulations on Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing, Chapter 78

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

I agree with the recommendation by the EQB to update the existing requirements regarding the drilling, casing, cementing, testing, monitoring and plugging of oil and gas wells, and the protection of water supplies.

The protection of our water supply is vital to the good of the Commonwealth and the country. It is incredible to me that water is anything but an utmost priority to us all. We drink water, and we rely on the ecosystem services provided by biota that also rely on clean water. Furthermore, water is poised to become an increasingly tempestuous global and regional issue as population increases and climate change impacts water supply.

One improvement that I believe could be made to the proposed changes is more language pertaining to the processing of drilling mud. I have heard varying information regarding the water-based drilling mud used in hydraulic fracture operations. I support the language requiring all chemicals to be made public, but the capture and treatment of the drilling mud should be a priority for operators, and they should be required to pay the entire cost for treatment. If treating the drilling mud ends up being particularly taxing on, or even impossible for, local water treatment facilities, the operators should be required to pay for any expansion of water treatment capacity in the area.

Sincerely,  
William Epting  
503 Cato Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4411

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