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From: Chris Charnock [charnockchris@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 12:52 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: CH 78 Regulations re: EQB and DEP

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am writing concerning the proposed changes to Chapter 78 as they apply to the gas well drilling in PA. I am aware that the Environmental Quality Board of the PA Department of Environmental Protection Agency is considering changes to the Chapter 78 Regulations. As a life time resident of PA and having been born and raised in Central PA I am finding the gas well drilling boom to be both contributing economically to people who otherwise have been struggling financially for a long time and also and more importantly threatening the environment and healthy living experienced in our state.

Everyone is aware of the potential hazards and accidents that have and will occur in PA due to the deep well drilling.

With this knowledge our state and federal government must put the most stringent regulations into our laws. PA's governing body must recognize that the gas well drilling has the potential to bring extreme harm to the people and places that have been our homes.

EQB has the opportunity to adopt more rigid standards as set forth in the proposal made by the Harvey Consulting Co.

It is necessary to make sure there are regulations that improve the cement well casing, incident reporting and air quality controls. The air quality is not the one thing the average persons can detect but the air quality will be detrimental if there are not significant regulations. All wells, without exception should require Blow Out Preventers. Already we have seen what can happen as it did in Clearfield, PA and if nothing else, what have we learned from the Gulf Well disaster?

Unfortunately the gas well drilling industry in PA has taken off at rocket speed without enough time to adequately address all the problems that can and will arise. There are not enough Emergency Response Systems in place and the state's infrastructure is not set up to deal with a major disaster. The ideas now on paper in the townships and rural areas do not have the capacity to meet the demands a disaster will have when there is a serious accident.

I live on a small township road leading to state forest land that has been leased. There is only one way for the trucks to go to and from the well sites. No one gave any thought to the fact that this road is not conducive to that type of traffic, trucks and equipment. I am not talking about the noise, dust, damage to the road or inconvenience, although that is a problem, I am very concerned about the lack of safety for these trucks to travel a road that has a mountain on one side and a drop off on the other and there barely room for two cars to pass let alone the oversized trucks with chemicals and contaminated water. The drop off is the Loyalsock Creek which empties directly in the Susquehanna River. It is only a matter of time before there is an accident on that road.

My above concern is a small issue when compared to what this state has to do to ensure the safety of people and the environment. Please take each comment made by the citizens and tax payers of this state into consideration and require the gas well companies to drill responsibly. The gas well companies have the money and the power to do a lot of drilling in our state but as Pennsylvanians we must not let them destroy our land and our way of life.

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