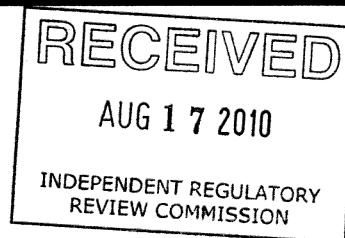


From: McPherson Family [mcpfamily@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 08, 2010 11:00 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: mcpfamily@yahoo.com
Subject: 25 Pa. Code Ch. 78



re: Comments Regarding Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling in PA

I have been a lifetime resident in the State of Pennsylvania, currently residing in Southeastern PA in Souderton area of Montgomery County. I spend portions of each year vacationing in upstate PA (Sullivan County). In my opinion, clean drinking water is more important than extraction of natural gas preserves and that we need to act now to establish strong legislation to insure that if natural gas drilling is done, that the companies that do the extraction put up the funding to insure that the drinking water remain as pure and clean as it is today. We need to look at history (the immediate history of Coal - Mountaintop removal in West Virginia and Kentucky, the not-so-recent history of the clear cutting of Hemlock to support the Tanning industry in the turn of the last century), to guide us in laws that will keep drinking water safe and not allow the mineral extraction companies to proceed without controls and accountability. Fresh water from our state is a treasure we must work to protect with a series of strong disclosure laws and liability for taking risks into consideration when drilling or 'fracking' a new well.

Four thoughts or comments that I would appreciate you consider -

1. Disclosure of all chemicals used per well - Disclosure of all chemicals used in the fracking of every well should be done at the county level and annually within local newspapers. Total of each chemical pumped into the well for the year would be disclosed and reported per well to the county the well resides. If contaminated drinking water is found within a certain radius of the well it should also be disclosed. Significant impact to local drinking water would allow local county boards or commissioners to shut down a well.

2. Cost for repair of local roads would be shared by companies with wells in the area. Repair and upkeep of roads would be shared based on proportion of use. Proportion of use would be determined by Penn Dot engineers and would be paid annually directly to Penn Dot as a prerequisite for operating a well.

3. Significantly large bonds should be issued before wells are drilled that would cover cleanup of local issues as well as contamination. Liability for bonds should be issued by the owning companies, not the small development company, so liability for problems can be remedied at the owning company level. In my opinion, a bond should be issued based on the local population density or location of the drill near to safe drinking water, reservoirs, or local tributaries. I also think oversight of bonds should be held at the local county level. To require more local oversight and accountability bonds would be held by a series of trustees or an board of oversight at the county level. A board of oversite per county would be established that oversees administration of the bonds, operation of the wells, and testing that refunding of the bond based on milestones and cleanup targets set at the state level. Bonds would not be returned to the extraction company until a set number of years after the well is capped/completed or for a set number of years without accidents.

4. Local property owners should benefit. Taxes and standards should be set by the state. Minimizing local tax boards additional taxes and standards will make the entire state an even playing field. It will minimize pressure by local municipalities to 'compete' by 'dumbing

down' laws and standards. Taxes should not be so high that the local landowner gets little-to-nothing but that they also benefit in the leases. Local taxing municipalities should be limited in adding additional extraction taxes so that the local state focus can remain on hitting a state-level tax or clean water standard and not get improperly focused on competing between municipalities to increase local tax revenue.

Overall I am extremely concerned in our local budget climate that we not be hasty in rushing into the development but in doing it in a way either after drilling has been proven to be safe, or with significant up-front bonds or set-aside funding that can restore damaged drinking water sources (if that is even possible to restore it).

Thanks for consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

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