

Cooper, Kathy

From: CJ Gonzalez [teacher41@aol.com]
 Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 7:49 AM
 To: EP, RegComments
 Subject: EQB reg ammendments



6 August 2010

Environmental Quality Board
 Pennsylvania Dept of Environmental Protection
 P.O. Box 8477
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: PA DEP's Environmental Quality Board proposed amendment to the regulations on Oil & Gas Casing and Cementing, Chapter 78

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

I strongly urge the Board to exercise its full authority to protect *the public's natural resources of clean water and air*—as guaranteed by PA's constitutional provision in Article 1, Section 27—by at the very least updating & strengthening requirements regarding the drilling, casing, cementing, testing, monitoring, and plugging of oil and gas wells for the protection of water supplies, and hopefully, calling for a temporary MORATORIUM on all natural gas extraction in the Marcellus Shale in PA until thorough, definitive risk-assessment has been completed by independent scientists and authorities.

Given the enormous challenges and significant environmental risks involved in the hydraulic fracturing process, it seems to strain the level of credulity that permitting has been allowed to proceed BEFORE such thorough risk-assessment & analysis had been completed! Public officials are trustees with entrusted authority and obligation to get it right. We are at a moment in history when clean drinking water is increasingly recognized for the precious resource that it is, with enormous economic implications of its own, so why would PA want to risk losing such a basic natural resource that we thankfully are blessed with in such a risky pursuit, often pursued by out-of-state companies for short term profit? How sad to see the Monongahela River listed as one of America's ten most endangered rivers directly as a result of the Marcellus Shale drilling water quality degradation issues.

As I listen to the heart-breaking stories ---some of which could clearly be defined as years of torture living with this drilling process-- of people across PA with compelling evidence of our land and water becoming polluted by an industry that has been allowed to set their own customized standards while they extract our resources, it seems to cry out for essential time to reason our way forward with careful planning and strategic caution. There's just too much at stake. These are not just numerous "incidents" to be responded to, but a whole process and industry choices to be addressed. We rely on our elected officials and departments like the EPA to act as trustees of these constitutionally guaranteed PUBLIC resources on all our behalf.

One has to wonder, too, would we be having all these emergency meetings and hearings for the development of wind, solar, & geo-thermal energy sources? Seems like we're heading in the wrong direction folks... Now that would truly be a wasted opportunity.

Sincerely,

Henry & Carol Gonzalez
 Pittsburgh, PA