

Cooper, Kathy

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Sherry Carson [sherrywcarson@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 6:41 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: protecteaglesmere@gmail.com
Subject: Chapter 78 Rulemaking

We are writing to encourage the EQB to adopt strong protections to improve the safety of oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania and to preserve the quality of our water supplies. We support the inclusion of the language proposed by the Harvey Consulting report in the new Chapter 78 regulations.

The regulations should be targeted at preventing gas migration into drinking water supplies.

Poor casing and cementing can cause contamination of fresh water aquifers. Cement needs time to cure before it is disturbed. DEP proposes an eight-hour period during which no activity is to occur at the well pad which may disturb the cement. DEP should be notified at the beginning and end of the eight-hour period to ensure that the minimum eight-hour period is not breached.

Once a water supply has been affected by drilling, the regulations should make it easier to remedy affected surface owners' or occupiers' complaints of contaminated water from drilling and extraction operations. Replacement water should meet drinking water standards at a minimum.

It is important that the Department know when a complaint about water supply has been lodged with the operator. We support the requirement that the operator notify the Department within 10 days, if not sooner, of a receipt of a complaint.

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