

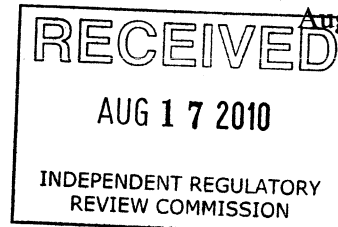
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**SOUTH BRANCH TUNKHANNOCK
CREEK WATERSHED COALITION**

P.O. Box 55 La Plume, PA 18440

Environmental Quality Board
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477



August 9, 2010

Re: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) proposed amendment to the regulations on Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing, Chapter 78

To the members of the Environmental Quality Board:

We strongly support the EQB's recommendation 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.

As a citizens' group operating under the aegis of the Countryside Conservancy and dedicated to protecting the health of our watershed in Northeastern Pennsylvania, we have observed with deep concern the threat that Marcellus Shale gas drilling poses to water supplies in our region.

The high pressures at which Marcellus gas is being produced, and the wide variety of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, urgently require an updating of the 1989 regulations. Improperly completed gas wells have already damaged private water wells in Northeastern Pennsylvania, so this action is long overdue. We are pleased to see that the proposed amendments require:

- tighter gas well drilling, casing and cementing standards, plus a casing and cementing plan for each well;
- restoration or replacement of impaired water supplies;
- regular inspection of gas wells and reporting to DEP;
- prompt response to gas migration complaints, and notification of authorities; and
- more frequent reporting of gas production.

We are mindful of the importance of natural gas drilling to the economy of our region, our state and our nation. However, we are convinced that gas exploration and drilling must occur under proper environmental regulation to protect the health, safety and well-being of our citizens and the natural beauty of our area.

Ellie Hyde, Chair
Mary Felley, Secretary
South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Mary Felley [Mary.Felley@keystone.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 2:32 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Comments on Chapter 78 proposed amendments
Attachments: SouthBranchTunkhannockCreek-Chapter78Comments.pdf

To whom it may concern:

Please find attached a PDF file with comments from the South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition on the proposed amendments to Chapter 78 regulations on gas well drilling, casing, cementing, monitoring and reporting.

We appreciate the opportunity to register our support for these amendments.

Yours sincerely
Mary Felley
Secretary, South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition

Countryside Conservancy
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