



Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association

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mehoopanycreek.org

2954

August 19, 2012

Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477  
[regComments@pa.gov](mailto:regComments@pa.gov)

RE: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards, Rulemaking

2012 SEP - 5 PM 4: 33

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IRRC

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mehoopany Creek Watershed covers 134.5 square miles that encompasses Bradford, Luzerne, Sullivan and Wyoming Counties. The Association has done several stream restoration projects through Growing Greener Grants over the last several years. Recently, we received another grant in excess of \$600,000 that will provide for extending a restoration project that is currently on the South Branch Mehoopany Creek.

The South Branch Mehoopany Creek is currently designated as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishery.

Currently, the Watershed has many drilling sites and impoundments located in Bradford, Sullivan and Wyoming Counties. As the development continues, gathering lines are being proposed and will be constructed soon.

The Association assisted the SRBC in the placement of a remote water quality monitor on the Little Mehoopany Creek. It is because of that water monitoring that we became aware of naturally occurring strontium in our stream. We are very supportive of all the improvements noted in this rulemaking especially strontium. We need to know when such a pollutant is the result of a discharge from a drilling site, or when it might be naturally occurring. We need to know what impact discharge

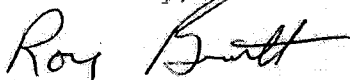
levels could have on our watershed and those who live within. This new standard will provide that information.

In addition, the new standard for 2-BE is a welcome addition. Some of our Association members have been concerned about substances that are possibly discharged either intentionally or by accident from Marcellus Shale development, and what they mean to human health.

Finally, we request that consideration be given to evaluating whether standards for both methane and ethane might be developed. Methane has occurred in streams through drilling impacts in the northern tier region, in which our watershed is a Susquehanna River basin drainage unit. Our watershed soon will be trenched, bored, and possibly HDD for natural gas gathering systems, and we are concerned what a pipeline failure might impact. Having clarity on such issues for both methane and ethane will benefit all watersheds statewide, especially those within the Marcellus Shale regions producing both wet and dry gas.

The Association appreciates the opportunity to submit a public comment in this rulemaking process, to ensure that the Mehoopany Creek Watershed and all watersheds are properly protected by necessary revisions to water quality standards brought forth by sound science. We are supportive of all provisions in the rulemaking along with the additional considerations for both methane and ethane.

Sincerely,



Roy Bennett  
President