

**Kathy Cooper**

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**From:** Henry Berkowitz <hlemc@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 4:38 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Regulation #7-484, Environmental Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

**Dear Independent Regulatory Review Commission Members:**

As time passes we continue to learn there are more dangers involved in fracking than we were originally led to believe. Many, especially those who stand to profit from fracking, will always defend anything positive they hear, but facts are facts, and false information will lead us to poor decisions. Eventually, maybe not tomorrow, we or our progeny will have to pay for our bad choices, and we need to consider them and what they may have to live with if we continue down the wrong path. For too long, oil and gas operators in Pennsylvania have conducted their activities under outdated regulations and with virtual impunity—factors that have helped spur ever-growing impacts on water, air, and health.

The final draft Chapter 78 and 78a regulations from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) represent a significant step forward in aligning the state's oil and gas regulations with new technologies and modern-day practices. Today, both conventional and unconventional operations rely on hydraulic fracturing (fracking), use toxic chemicals and large volumes of water, disturb land, and generate polluting waste.

Both Chapter 78 and Chapter 78a are the result of over three years of public hearings, comment periods, and revisions—during which legislators and the industry had ample time to weigh in. It's outrageous that they're now trying to derail the entire process. Failure to adopt these regulations will allow countless environmental problems to remain unchecked and increase the health and financial burdens borne by the public.

Please help Pennsylvania improve environmental protections and industry accountability by voting YES to regulations for both conventional and unconventional operators.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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