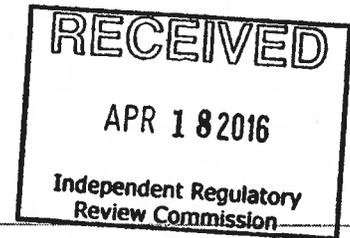


Kathy Cooper

From: IRRC
Subject: FW: Chapter 78a Proposed Oil and Gas Regulations



From: Mehoopany Creek <mehoopanycreek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 1:22 PM
To: David Sumner
Reply To: Mehoopany Creek
Subject: Chapter 78a Proposed Oil and Gas Regulations

Mr. Sumner and the IRRC Commission Members:

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. The natural stream restoration projects we've completed improve fish, fowl and animal habitats along with stream stabilization reducing sedimentation run-off issues. Our members monitor stream water quality, participate in litter pickup days and lime the South Branch usually at least annually if not semi-annually. Our members also participate in habitat improvement activities jointly with a local deer habitat improvement group. We've pruned apple trees and planted food plots within SGL57. We also hold an Annual Trout Day Fundraiser and assist with the North Branch Trout Derby for our area's young and upcoming anglers.

The (South Branch) Mehoopany Creek is currently designated as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishery. Burgess Brook is currently through the rulemaking process proposed to be designated as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishery. Our watershed flows primarily through western Wyoming County; however, for at least five years shale gas drilling has been occurring within our watershed in Wyoming, Sullivan and Bradford Counties.

Presently, there are approximately 100 Marcellus Shale natural gas wells within our watershed. We've experienced spills at many sites. Just beyond the reach of our watershed (Sugar Run, Wilmot Twp.) is one of the Commonwealth's still unresolved gas migration issues. Well pads and many miles of unregulated (for safety purposes) gathering lines both create additional storm water run-off issues within our watershed. Our members, many of whom are leased landowners live near or next to well pads that need better regulations. They've seen first hand the need for the spill policy and the gathering line soil provisions. Above ground temporary pipelines also run intermittently near their homes, water supplies and streams. Residents within our watershed have experienced issues related to gas drilling and their private water supplies. These regulations will provide greater oversight for all these issues.

We participated in the public process submitting comments twice on this rulemaking. We therefore, strongly support the approval of the proposed Chapter 78a rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Dennis Mingus
Vice President

Our Mission - Working to preserve, protect and improve the quality of land and water of the Mehoopany Creek Watershed.

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association POB 73 Mehoopany PA 18629 mehoopanycreek.org