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From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 09, 2014 3:24 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRRC; RegComments@pa.gov; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites



Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has received the following comments regarding the above-referenced proposed rulemaking.

Commentor Information:

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 IRRRC
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Comments entered:

Thanks for taking public comments on the state's oil and gas regulations, known as Chapter 78 of the Pennsylvania Code. I want to make sure that the new regulations protect the air, water, and health of everyone in PA.

Here are my recommendations:

The DEP should require drilling company operators to restore contaminated drinking water to a quality that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards, no matter what the quality of the water prior to drilling.

Drilling company operators should be prohibited from using open pits for storage waste. Many spills, leaks, and other problems involving open pits have occurred statewide that contaminate water, soil and air.

When it comes to waste disposal, drilling company operators should follow the federal regulation of hazardous substances that other industries have to follow.

Drillers must identify existing wells before site and well construction and drilling (not just fracking), so that the location of a new well can be changed if needed. Drillers should then be responsible to plug and seal or otherwise appropriately address abandoned and orphaned wells according to state safety standards prior to well site construction.

Drillers must pay a tax rate commensurate with (a) their expected profits and (b) enough to pay for correcting the damage done to the environment.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Hayley Book

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