

Cooper, Kathy

3042

**From:** RegComments@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2014 3:32 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRC; 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

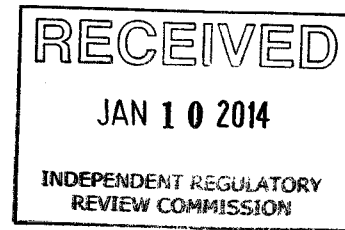


**Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites**

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

Commentor Information:

Michael Schmotzer  
concerned citizen ([t1gger2@verizon.net](mailto:t1gger2@verizon.net))  
751 Hillcrest Rd  
York, PA 17403 US



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.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Hayley Book

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Hayley Book  
Director, Office of Policy  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
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Cooper, Kathy

**From:** RegComments@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2014 4:06 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRC; 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

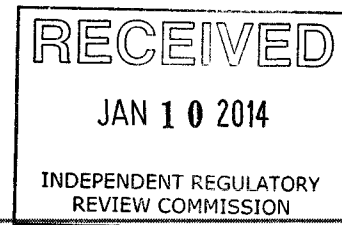


**Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites**

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

Commentor Information:

Paula Kline  
([kline.paula@gmail.com](mailto:kline.paula@gmail.com))  
1019 Ashley Rd  
West Chester, PA 19382 US



Comments entered:

I am very concerned regarding the extremely disturbing results of gas drilling in our state. We seem to be the poster child for greed and disregard for the well being of residents and our natural resources, upon which we depend. I hope you will extend the comment period for this important concern.

Meanwhile, I hope you will:

Sections 78.51 and 78.52

- require 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. If the quality of a water

supply prior to drilling was above these standards, the operator must restore the water to that higher standard.

- require a consistent list of parameters for pre-drill water testing, which must be established before the proposed regulatory changes are adopted. The parameters should be as comprehensive as possible. At a minimum, match what DEP uses when it conducts full contamination

investigations and to ensure that complete baseline data is available.

- require that pre-drill data available to the public, while protecting individual homeowners' privacy, through an online platform, which DEP must establish before the proposed regulatory changes are adopted.

Sections 78.56, 78.57, 78.58, and 78.59 Standards for frack pits and impoundments

Many spills, leaks, and other problems involving pits have occurred statewide that contaminate water, soil and air. Waste should be stored only in closed systems.

- Prohibit operators from using open pits for storage of regulated substances, including wastewater, drill cuttings, and substances (like gels and cement) that return to the surface after fracking.

Sections 78.60, 78.61, 78.62, and 78.63, and 78.703. Disposal of brine, drill cuttings, and residual waste

Drilling and fracking generate large amounts of solid and liquid waste that can harm water supplies, air quality, land, health, and wildlife.

- Require the application of the U.S. Resource Recovery and Conservation Act standards to regulate all aspects of the storage, transport, and use of hazardous materials contained in pits, centralized impoundments, and tanks.

- Prohibit the burial or land application of drill cuttings, which can contain polluting and radioactive substances. DEP proposes different conditions for disposal of drill cuttings from above and below the well casing, but neither makes the practice safe. Cuttings from deep underground may contain more pollutants, but chemical additives and contaminated fluids are also found in drill cuttings from shallower areas.

- Prohibit the onsite burial of waste pits.

- Prohibit the use of brine for dust suppression, de-icing, and road stabilization. Stormwater runoff carries brine into nearby waterways and wetlands. Not allowing the use of brine from shale gas wells is a positive step, but brine from conventional wells can also push salinity loads far above any naturally occurring conditions.

- Prohibit the land application of tophole water, pit water, fill, or dredged material. These substances can contain chemicals and sediments bound with pollutants that pose risks to water, air and soil.

Section 78.52(a) Orphaned and abandoned gas and oil wells

- require operators to 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. Identified wells should be mapped on a publicly available web platform.

- Plug and seal abandoned and orphaned wells according to state safety standards prior to well site construction. The state lacks funding to address the large number of old wells, so drillers should be responsible for preventing pollution of adjacent water wells and air pollution from accidents when they occur.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Hayley Book

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PA Department of Environmental Protection  
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