

3042

Cooper, Kathy

---

**From:** RegComments@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 10:16 AM  
**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

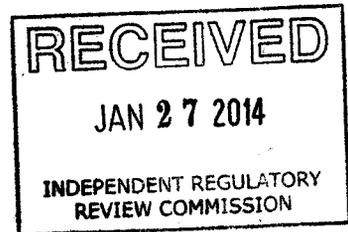


**Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites**

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

Commentor Information:

Maury Fey  
([mgfey@comcast.net](mailto:mgfey@comcast.net))  
306 Georgetown Lane  
Murrysville, PA 15632 US



---

Comments entered:

After having registered to provide Comments on the Act 78 regulations in Indiana last Thursday evening, I was unable to attend due to coming down with a very bad cold. I understand however, that my comments will still be accepted digitally. Please find them attached. Thank You for including them.

Maury Fey  
306 Georgetown Lane  
Murrysville, PA 15632  
724-327-5594 [mgfey@comcast.net](mailto:mgfey@comcast.net)

---

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment. You are advised to save the attachments to your local computer or a network share when prompted by your browser.

Comments Attachment: [Maury Fey.doc](#)

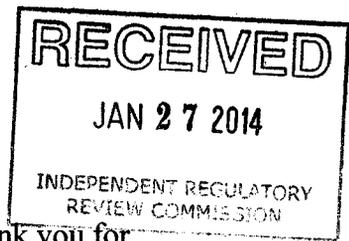
Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Hayley Book

---

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  
Fax: 717-783-8926  
[RegComments@pa.gov](mailto:RegComments@pa.gov)

3042



## Comments on PA DEP Act 78 Regulations

Good Evening. I'm Maury Fey from Murrysville, PA and I wish to thank you for allowing me to share some thoughts in this evening's public hearing on Act 78.

As a lifelong resident of Western PA, I'm very pleased to see the growth of the economy here after decades of decline that resulted from the loss of heavy manufacturing. The natural gas industry, in partnership with careful control by the DEP has breathed economic life back into the State of Pennsylvania. Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing has brought forth enormous volumes of natural gas – enough to last more than a century. The possibilities seem endless, from power generation using efficient combined cycle gas turbines to replace coal fired boilers, and the chemical, plastics and pharmaceuticals industries as well as the birth of new businesses; gas will furnish the needs of all these industries. Let's remember that for each new job created, five to seven jobs are created in the local economy – equipment suppliers, restaurants, banks and clothing stores. Local Impact Fees allow communities across the state to repair roads, upgrade water and sewer systems, and build ball fields for our kids to play on. To date, several hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians are now bringing home paychecks... and the best is yet to come as the gas industry is years from maturity.

In response to stringent regulations set forth by DEP, drillers and the industries that support them have standardized on a myriad of innovations like advanced well sealing systems, frack fluid reprocessing and they are working on the conversion of drilling rig diesel engines to quieter, cleaner electric drives. Innovations like these simultaneously improve productivity and safety of operations while reducing emissions and preventing pollution of groundwater. DEP has expanded its staff to support added permitting, inspection and enforcement activities from dozens of employees to several hundred. And the beneficiaries are the people of Pennsylvania who get the benefits, but will no longer live with the threat of contaminated air, aquifers and streams.

Going forward, it is important that DEP continue to set forth guidelines for the industry to follow as it further expands. As I understand it, Chapter 78 is a very good addition. But as a retired technology manager, I caution that any new regulation must be clear, concise and complete in itself, and it must be consistent with other regulations already in place. It's important that industry users are not sent on paper chases in which regulations direct users to other parts of the Code (or worse – to other Codes). Please be sure to eliminate any potential inconsistencies as they will surely lead to misinterpretation, confusion and mistakes which can vary from loss of time and productivity to dangerous accidents which can harm property, workers and nearby residents. You must review each section from the viewpoint of an unfamiliar user of average intelligence who is rushed for time and under pressure to perform. What mistake might that user make, and if he does, what might be the consequences and resulting damage? If you take that approach, users will fully understand how to proceed. New wells will be safely drilled and natural gas will be brought into production through newly laid gathering and transmission pipelines to customers located here in Pennsylvania and abroad.

We stand at the threshold of a wonderful new industry – one that will replace the steel industry that was lost a generation ago. As Pennsylvanians, we have embraced this new found bonanza, but we are determined to proceed in the safest possible manner. As regulators, you are charged with the heavy responsibility making sure that natural gas is harvested in the safest and most efficient manner so that it benefits present and future generations of Pennsylvania's residents, communities and corporations alike. Thank you for shepharding this new industry to a promising tomorrow for the benefit of us all.

Maury Fey  
306 Georgetown Lane  
Murrysville, PA 15632  
724-327-5594 mgfey@comcast.net