

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:51 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

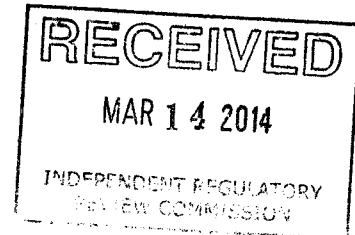


Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

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

Commentor Information:

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Comments entered:

Dear Department of Environmental Quality Board Members,

I am concerned about the existing and potential impacts to Pennsylvania's state and national parks from increased hydraulic fracturing. The proposed changes to Chapter 78 of the Pennsylvania Code simply do not do enough to protect Pennsylvania's state and national treasures.

I ask that three changes be made to the draft Chapter 78 rules:

1. Increase the setback for new wells near a publicly-owned park, forest, gameland, or wildlife area. Two hundred feet is simply not enough space to protect our parks from fracking impacts, including air and water contamination, wildlife habitat fragmentation, and disruption of pristine viewsheds. A setback of at least half a mile would provide stronger protections.
2. Include stronger provisions to find and plug off the state's 250,000 "orphaned or abandoned" wells. These wells are a danger for methane release and other chemical contamination.
3. Add language specifying that hydraulic fracturing will continue to be banned in the Delaware River Basin until a full environmental impact study is completed. The Delaware River Basin contains some of the most beautiful land in the country, hosts some of America's most visited national parks, provides clean drinking water for 15 million people, and is home to a rich diversity of wildlife. Permitting fracking to take place within the basin before potential impacts are understood could forever harm one of the greatest treasures of this state and the nation.

Thank you for taking all necessary steps to protect our heritage.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Hayley Book

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