

3047

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From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:41 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

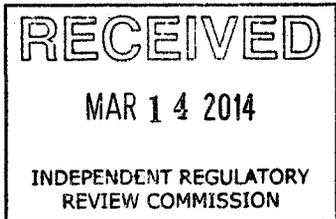


Re: Proposed Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites

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

Commentor Information:

Responsible Drilling Alliance
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Comments entered:

The Responsible Drilling Alliance believes the current Chapter 78 proposal includes several regulatory improvements, which we support. However, there are significant challenges that are not addressed in these proposed regulations.

The most egregious oversight is the reductionistic thinking that underpins these proposals. In almost every area, there is a marked lack of big picture thinking. When examined under a "one well at a time" microscope, the impacts of the gas industry on water quality, air quality, soil integrity, forest habitat, human health, and quality of life look very different from the reality of the full scope of this industry on all human and non-human life in PA. As thousands of new permits are issued and wells drilled, this will become increasingly true.

With this in mind, we request the following:

- 1.) Any new regulations must apply to conventional and unconventional wells.
- 2.) Open pits and centralized impoundments must be prohibited, and a closed loop system put in place for all wells, regardless of location.
- 3.) A full and documented cradle to grave chain of custody must be implemented for all drill cuttings, produced water, flowback, and misc. waste materials.
- 4.) Long-term storage pits and on-site burial of solid waste should be prohibited, with no waivers issued.
- 5.) Due to the topography of much of PA that overlies the Marcellus, water tables fluctuate significantly. The proposed regulations must recognize this fact, and include the seasonal high water table as a component of the regional groundwater table.
- 6.) The current permitting process imposes the burden of proof on PADEP. This is an upside

down approach. This burden should be borne by the applicant, those who stand to gain the profit from the venture. The current system requires significant investment by PA taxpayers who have nothing to gain and much to lose as the industry moves onto public lands and into rural neighborhoods. The applicant must have the burden of proof in any challenge of PADEP decisions, and all permit decisions made by PADEP must place public interest over corporate profits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

RDA Board of Directors
Robert Cross, president
Barbara Jarmoska
Jennifer Slotterback
Theodore Stroter
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James Slotterback
Roscoe McCloskey

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
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