

3042

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 4:35 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:

Paul Roden
 Berks Gas Truth, Sierra Club Hydrofracking Team, (paul.rodan@comcast.net)
 307 Daleview Drive
 Yardley, PA 19067 US

2013 DEC 13 PM 4:53

RECEIVED
 IRRC

Comments entered:

I find the proposed environmental protection performance standards for oil and gas well sites totally inadequate in protecting the environment, the drill workers and the 15 million members of the public dependent on the water coming from the Delaware Watershed. With DEP's budget and staff being cut and the number of wells proposed and drilling permits sought this is at best a joke and at worst an outrage to protect the environment and our water supply.

Where is the monitoring of the air, water, ground and drill casings? Where is all of this waste water going to be stored or treated? What if there is a well blow out or waste pond overflow? Where is the emergency response team and plan? The industry record and response to paste events leaves much to be desired. If an existing well pad has a potential regulation violation, the DEP inspector has to first submit their findings to Harrisburg for review. Either these regulations are followed or they are not worth the paper they are printed on. Political contributions from the gas and oil drillers should not trump following environmental health and safety regulations. I am not sorry if the drillers find these regulations "burdensome" in any way. Where is their sense of environmental integrity? They say they are drilling in a environmentally responsible way, but that is not what I am reading in the newspapers or seeing on TV or in the movies. How are leaks and flaring of the methane going to be monitored? If the chemicals used to frack these wells are so safe, why are they exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act? Why are medical professionals treating workers or residents near the well pad drill sites under gag orders? The chemicals used, proprietary or not should be publicized. The public has the right to know what these chemicals are. If there is a leak or accident, how will the public know what they are, if they don't know what to watch out for? These chemicals are not the same ones found under our kitchen sinks.

Far from it. What are they trying to hide by saying they are "proprietary." That is not being environmentally friendly. If the DEP had any real intentions of protecting the public and the environment, they would outlaw and band the practice of hydraulic fracturing. But since you are owned by campaign contributions of the gas and oil drillers, and rely on voluntary reporting by them, I don't have any faith in these regulations, the DEP or the gas and oil drillers to follow them and report any violations. I "Don't Expect Protection" from the DEP or these regulations. I will continue to advocate for the total ban and outlawing of these environmentally dangerous procedures that are too expensive to be done safely and totally unnecessary for our energy needs.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

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