

3042

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRC; RegComments@pa.gov; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; gvitali@pahouse.net
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Comment notice for - Advanced Notice of Final Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (7-484)



Re: Advanced Notice of Final Rulemaking - Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (7-484)

The following comments have been received regarding the above-referenced advanced notice of final rulemaking.

Commentator Information:

Todd Henkelmann
 Sierra Club (henkelbt@comcast.net)
 4728 Valleyfield Dr
 Allison Park, PA 15101 US

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 IRRC
 2015 APR 20 PM 3:30

Comments entered:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on these proposed standards for oil & gas well sites. As an avid hiker and backpacker on Pennsylvania's trails, this is a great concern. What used to be nearly a wilderness experience for my wife or friend and I on most northern PA trails is now an exercise in how many wells and access roads are we going to encounter. This is why most of our long backpacking trips are now planned for out-of-state destinations. I do appreciate the DEP for listening to my concerns and for these proposed rules. It is important to have them codified and implemented. However, I do not think they go far enough.

The proposed noise standard is a great and needed idea and should be quantified at a level of 45 decibels or lower. Noise pollution complaints are very important to be considered and I have experienced industrial site noise during my trail journeys.

I also support the requirement that operators submit a permit application that identifies all active, inactive, abandoned and orphaned wells prior to drilling and that they be plugged prior to beginning any new drilling. I support a prohibition of open waste impoundments that would take effect immediately, not after 3 years have passed. The damage being done by leakage is clear and happening right now.

Lastly, I think the quality of any home or property owners' water supply must be better protected by careful testing and if found below safe standards, the operators must be required to restore to pre-drilling levels.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to be heard.

Respectfully yours,
 Todd Henkelmann