

3042

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 1:32 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:

Robert Ross
(rmross4@gmail.com)
146 Cattail Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901 US

RECEIVED
IRRC
2015 MAY -4 PM 2:54

Comments entered:

30 April 2015

Department of Environmental Protection Policy Office
400 Market Street
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Chapter 78a. Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites;
Advance Notice of Final Rulemaking

To Whom it May Concern:

I live in Delmar Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. I live in the drilling area having a well pad and FERC-regulated (Tennessee Gas Company) compressor station both 0.5 miles from our home.

I'm concerned about noise levels and light pollution at drill sites in my and neighboring townships. These are disturbing impacts to residents and wildlife alike that no one seems to regard. Specifically, it ought to be mandated that industry trucks be prohibited from using engine brakes on highways, state or township. Why should some residents get reprieve from this unnecessary over-the-top noise (certain boroughs) while all the rest of us don't get this reprieve? Townships could enact some of this, but we all know they won't; it needs state action.

Also, cumulative ambient noise levels are rarely if ever considered when projects are evaluated. Eg., FERC only requires compressor stations to come in below 54 db at a certain distance from facility, but no consideration is given to ever increasing environmental noise (such as truck traffic, railroad switching, etc.) in the area.

Night-time lights flooding forests and marshes from drill sites interfere with life cycles of many insects with impacts on bats, already in trouble from White Nose Syndrome and in steep declines. This impact is in addition to loss of dark sky and star watching. With cloud cover the impact is even worse due to reflection off clouds from greater distances. Thank you for considering mitigation or rules/laws to reduce these real impacts to wildlife and the lifestyles of people living in shale-drilling regions.

--
Robert M. Ross
Ecologist (USGS--retired)
146 Cattail Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Patrick McDonnell

Patrick McDonnell
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
RegComments@pa.gov