

3042

Cooper, Kathy

**From:** RegComments@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 4:22 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRRC;  
 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:

Kurt Lyle  
 ([jazzbo@windstream.net](mailto:jazzbo@windstream.net))

, PA US

2015 MAY -8 PM 4: 17

RECEIVED  
 IRRRC

Comments entered:

Dear DEP:

My local newspaper states that DEP will continue to receive comments until 5/19/15 and that is why I am writing. I live in Warren County and the local paper relayed some comments that were received at a public hearing on 4/30/15 at the Warren County Courthouse. Most of the reported comments were from "local", "conventional" "independent" producers and the politicians who support them. The general tone of the reported response was that the oil and gas industry does not need more regulation. I could not disagree more.

Current regulations allow wells to be within 100' of a stream and 200' of a house. Eight wells were drilled on the property next to mine. one about 200' from my house and one about 100' from the South Branch of the Tionesta Creek. I think these wells and the related activity reduce my property values and harm the local environment due to increased dust and runoff from the access roads, the noise of the wells running/pumping, the odor from the holding tanks and the activity of large trucks and machinery. I decided to start on a personal note so you may be able to relate to a "what if this happened to me" scenario.

I live in Barnes, PA, a very active oil and gas area, close to the Allegheny National Forest. The increased drilling activity has greatly harmed the forest and local ecology. New roads and drill pads disrupt and isolate sensitive habitat areas, cause increased hot spots and thus contribute to climate change, and lead to increased runoff, soil depletion and stream pollution.

Living on the South Branch of the Tionesta I have seen increased risk of flooding due to the new roads and related runoff. In the past 3" of rain could create flooding, now it only takes 1.5". This is a problem I think needs to be addressed by new regulations. Lots of new well roads go straight up steep hillsides, and none allow for holding back rainwater and allowing it to absorb back into the ground and water table. Please restrict the building of new roads and create new regulations to reduce runoff.

The small, conventional wells that were drilled next to me were fracked under the cover of darkness, usually very early in the morning or near dusk. The temporary, holding pits were quickly covered over and I never saw any actually holding much. I can say the one close to the house had lots of spray and fluids going ovetop the pit and into the field as the discharge from the drilling rig was a straight pipe without any elbow. I did not see any DEP presence at anytime. I know lots of old wells are re-fracked rom time to time and this does not appear to be closly monitored either. I have also heard that drillers are now allowed to mix frack fluids with sawdust and dump it in landfills. Please have a strict accounting of what is in fracking fluids and where it is going. Please require that all fracking be monitored by reliable employees. This pertains to all wells, conventional and non-conventional.

Please increase the distance wells have to be from waterways and houses. A thousand feet seems more than reasonable to me. Please stop allowing drillers to draw their frack water from nearby streams and creeks.

Please remain free from and independent of political influence and focused on the goal of protecting Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and promoting a cleaner environment. It seems the politicians are the biggest problem. It is embarrassing that Governor Corbett was bought by out of state companies that were allowed to come into our state and take our resources and are now planning to export them out of the state and even overseas. Please act on behalf of the environment; the trees, streams, plants, insects and wildlife that can't buy political influence.

Thank you.  
Sincerely, Kurt Lyle

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Patrick McDonnell

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