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5/12/15

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to comment on proposed changes to DEP Chapter 78 Oil and Gas Regulations. I am a homeowner in Washington County, a small business owner in Houston PA, and my children attend school in Trinity School District. My home, my business, and my kid's schools are all in the vicinity of natural gas activities.

Overall, I think the changes to Chapter 78 are a small step in the right direction, although much more needs to be done. Article I, Section 27 of Pennsylvania's constitution, *requires* the state to "conserve and maintain" public resources "for the benefit of all the people." I don't see that happening.

Replacing current open frack pits with sturdier, above ground open frack tanks is a very small step. **All** open frack pits, in ground and above ground, should be banned. They are a hazard to our health. They offgas organic compounds into the air. This becomes an air pollution problem, and the organic compounds are termed Hazardous Air Pollutants. A Closed Loop System is what is needed here. Closed Loop systems are used in other parts of the country. And this needs to happen in PA as soon as possible. I would propose that all open pits be banned. Don't put this off for years by taking a tiny step forward, and condemning us to many more years with open pits that are above ground. Let's require these huge companies to conduct business in PA in a safe way. I have to follow certain rules in my business, and some of those rules require an expense. Please uphold the natural gas industry to stricter standards! Please protect PA. I have already had 2 friends move out of state because fracking moved in close to their homes.

As you know, Range Resources was fined \$4.15 million for leaks and other problems at 6 of its water impoundments in Washington County, including Jon Day, near Trinity South Elementary School. 12,000 tons of contaminated soil was removed from the area. I don't know where they put the contaminated soil. I am 100% supportive of keeping all fracking and natural gas activities farther away from schools. As for open impoundments (above or in-ground) 200 feet is not far enough. 300 yards is too close. Below is a picture of Trinity South Elementary (A) and the brown open pit that was fined for leaks. I think they are about a mile apart. Unfortunately, even a mile feels too close. How about keeping industrial activities out of towns; agricultural

areas, and away from homes and schools? The huge gas trucks also damaged a small bridge that the school buses cross daily.



In addition, injection wells should not be allowed near streams or water supplies. (Lately I've become leery of drinking my home's water that comes from a spring fed well.)

I agree that fracking companies should be made to identify and plug abandoned wells. I'm all for impact fees. And, I think a distinction should always be made between unconventional and conventional drillers.

Thanks for your time,  
Patricia Spadaro