

Cooper, Kathy

3042

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 3:57 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:

Norma Kline
 (normakline@windstream.net)
 413 Martha Dr.
 Meadville, PA 16335 US

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 IRRRC
 2015 MAY 13 PM 4: 04

Comments entered:

As study after study provides more evidence that oil and gas drilling sites pollute our air and water with dangerous toxins, the arguments for strong regulations have become impossible to deny.

DEP can no longer ignore the concerns of Pennsylvania residents about water contamination and worsened air quality from drilling. Last year, DEP released information about 240 private water sources in Pennsylvania that were contaminated by oil and gas operations over the past seven years. This frequency of contamination is unacceptable.

DEP is not enforcing its regulations, or using its legal authority to safeguard the public health, waters of the Commonwealth, protect air quality.

As DEP revises Chapter 78, I urge DEP to protect the health and wellbeing of Pennsylvania residents by adopting the strongest possible regulations for oil and gas drilling.

Until this happens, I recommend that DEP place a moratorium on all gas and oil drilling until the industries operating in Pennsylvania can demonstrate mineral extraction and techniques and waste handling procedures that prevent surface water, groundwater and air pollution. Further, DEP needs to end the practice of allowing PA DOT from using the brine to treat roads. that will not ban open-air pits and tanks for storage and treatment of regulated substances and require all waste storage tanks to be completely enclosed. Why is a halt to oil and gas fracking activities required? Because of the following activities that DEP has allowed to occur:

1. Neither environmental regulators nor the public has reliable information about the location of drilling waste impoundments in Pennsylvania, which makes it nearly impossible to track or hold drillers accountable for air and water pollution from these sites. Therefore, DEP must require all waste impoundments to be immediately and properly disclosed.

2. DEP must require all oil and gas operators to develop water management plans, and prohibit the road-spreading of brine.

3. There are an estimated 300,000 abandoned wells across Pennsylvania, leaking untold amounts of toxins into our air, and a study from 2014 suggested that these wells are a significant source of greenhouse gas pollution .

4. These sites have dangerously high levels of cancer-causing pollutants such as formaldehyde and benzene, and people who live near oil and gas infrastructure in Pennsylvania have reported that they are experiencing adverse health impacts such as increases in headaches, asthma, nausea, birth defects, and more. Methane, a greenhouse gas as many as 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide over 20 years, also leaks from these sites, often at alarming rates. DEP must adopt comprehensive, best-in-the-nation methane regulations for Pennsylvania's shale gas infrastructure.

Since DEP does not have the staff to enforce the laws and regulations permits should not be issued and active sites need to be shut down.

Norma Kline
413 Martha Dr.
Meadville, PA 16335

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