

3042

Cooper, Kathy

From: RegComments@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; apankake@pasen.gov; IRRC;
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 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:

Lisa Johnson
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 IRRC
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Comments entered:

I was born and raised in Washington County. Growing up my parents where self-employed, running a business from our home. For years we struggled to make ends meet, selling MRO supplies to manufacturing companies. Our business survived even though there were fewer and fewer manufacturing companies in our area.

After college, I made the decision to leave the business and work elsewhere. This decision was based on the decline of manufacturing in our area. I felt that I could have a better income if I worked outside the family business.

Then years later, the gas industry came to Hickory, PA, the town that I grew up in. Hickory is an agricultural town, that hadn't seen much development. Although the development and growth had its growing pains on the town, overall it was very beneficial. Farmers, like my uncle who had struggled for years with broken down equipment were finally able to purchase new and safer equipment to do the job they loved so much, farming! Small businesses like my families were able to grow. We finally had new customers to sell our products too. With the growth, we were able to hire new employees, and purchase new delivery trucks. The biggest change for me personally was that I was able to quit my job in the Financial Investments industry and come back to my family business.

Over the last few years, our business grew from just under 1 million dollars in sales to over 6 million last year. Today with new regulations being imposed by Chapter 78, threats of new taxes, and of course the ever fluctuating price of gas, our business year to date sales are half of

last years, for the same time period. Although we have not laid any employees off, we do have two positions that need filled but are currently on a hiring freeze because of the lack of sales. Our small family business is in survival mode once again.

The Gas Industry has not only affected my family business and my personal employment, it has also affected my home life. My husband and I also live and manage him families farm. Although this is not our full time jobs, the farm consumes many of our weekend and evening hours. Our vacation every summer is making hay. We haven't seen a beach in years! Last year we were able to sell our gas rights to a local producer. With that money we were able to purchase new equipment to make our farm jobs easier.

All of these purchases whether farm equipment, delivery trucks, or just ordering pizza when we hit sales goals all create residual jobs. If the current cycle continues with the downward sales, fewer purchases will be made, that create these jobs.

The Drill Rig on our neighbor's farm was put up a few months ago. We look at the rig every day and see the lights all night long. We went through the seismic testing. We had all the water testing before drilling, during drilling and soon after drilling. To me none of it has been a nuisance or a problem. The gas companies have done there due diligence to make sure everything was safe and all the local residence have been well informed of what is currently going on and what to expect next.

PA already has strong environmental regulations, which have been used as model's for other states across the nation. These regulations have been reviewed and praised by the independent STRONG board, State Review of Oil & Natural Gas Environmental Regulations. Although regulations protect residents and our environment, they also come at a cost. We need to look at the regulations and make sure what is being proposed is cost effective to be put into place. We can't over regulate, just to regulate, this puts added cost onto business so they can't survive. If new regulations such as the noise standards are put into effect, we need to makes sure they are done for all industries not just segregate the Gas Industry.

I am proud to say I am part of the Gas Industry and I hope that the industry is alive and well for my children to say the same.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Patrick McDonnell

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