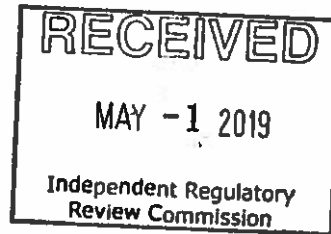


Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)(correction to Table in § 91.22(a) published April 6, 2019; 49 Pa.B. 1665)



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)(correction to Table in § 91.22(a) published April 6, 2019; 49 Pa.B. 1665).

Commenter Information:

David Graybill
 (dgmkhc@centurylink.net)
 1043 Long Road
 Mifflintown, PA 17059 US

Comments entered:

To Whom it may Concern:

I am a small dairy farmer with only 60 cows. Even large operations cannot accept this type of fee increases. Permits may be a way of life these days. But to increase costs beyond a nominal number for the cost of paper and postage is to take advantage of persons that farm for a living. The current level is too high and should be reduced not increased.

Most farm operations are family owned and operated. You are taking more dollars away from family incomes that are already at risk due to weather and disease risks that are inherent in the business of farming. Government regulations should not be another risk factor when it comes to producing safe, tasty, affordable food that each of us wants to have on our tables every day. We want our food production to stay locally within our state. Fee increases and complicated paperwork jeopardizes the farming industry in this state.

I respectfully submit that you must rethink this fee increase and also look at current paperwork and fee structure as being too high and complicated. Environmental sustainability and clean water are not a result of more fees and paperwork. There is no substitute for farmers that care for their crops and livestock to produce food for us to eat. The best management practices we use to reach our farming goals have clean water and sustainability as underlying principles. We eat the food from our own farm and drink water from our farm wells. It is a way of life with many risks but please eliminate government fees as one of them.

David Graybill

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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PA Department of Environmental Protection
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