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Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 5:06 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Administration of the Land Recycling Program (#7-552)

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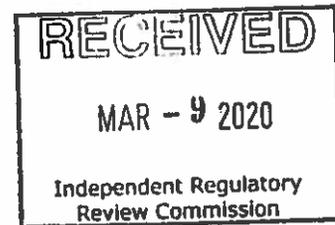


Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Administration of the Land Recycling Program (#7-552).

Commenter Information:

Sharon Furlong
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133 e. Bristol road
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Comments entered:

We at the Bucks Environmental Action Group, watchdog group of citizens who reside in the Southeastern part of Pennsylvania, do not believe any relaxation of benchmarks for the cleanup of contaminated lands is advisable. This rules policy seems to do just that.

Cleanup of lead, the forever chemicals of the PFAS/PFOS family, and PCB's is a serious business and this document seems to indicate that cleanup to a standard that is substantially less, in the case of lead, than is what already exists, would become the new benchmark. We find this unacceptable as there are usually people who work in these plants once they get re-sold and re-developed, and people who live around these plants as well. These People will still be exposed to substances that will present significant harm to them if substances such as those mentioned remain in enough quantity due to standards that do not comply with the most recent scientific understanding of these substances. While it is laudable that the family of PFOS is being mentioned and covered here, quicker than our Federal agencies have moved in relation to acknowledging and respond to the clear and present danger this family of chemicals clearly presents, the voluntary nature of the cleanup along with the use of 70 ppm, an elevated figure that does not take into consideration the most recent science, is not acceptable. Our neighboring state of New Jersey had a level of 7 ppm.....how does 70 compare? Again, it is nice that some action seems to be being taken, but if it is voluntary and if levels are set too high, then the reality is that no action will be taken that truly addresses the enormous need of the citizens of

Pennsylvania , many of whom have suffered from exposure for decades now. We question why this is being done and for whose purposes as this document does not seem to suggest that the needs of our citizens are being considered at all. If they were, no relaxation of standards based on science research would ever be allowed. Further, we believe this proposed change would benefit corporations and businesses who wish to clean up decades of contamination and the resulting toxicity to a substandard level in order to sell or repurpose this contaminated land and this fill their own coffers . We do not believe the lives of Pennsylvanians are being considered. Therefore, we opposed the changes that would relax standards of lead and would apply a voluntary benchmark for the PFOS family that is in reality, meaningless . We cannot accept toothless regulations that will in effect, bless the efforts of profit-driven entities to shirk their responsibilities and so continue to poison our lives.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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