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Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese and Implementation (#7-553)

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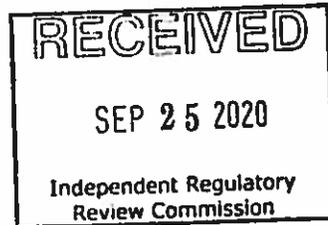


Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese and Implementation (#7-553).

Commenter Information:

Robert Duplessis
 (rduples1@swarthmore.edu)
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Comments entered:

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to change the water quality standard for manganese from 1 mg/l to a more stringent 0.3 mg/l. Research has proven that exposure to manganese is harmful to human health and, depending on the degree of exposure, can cause lasting neurological damage. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that manganese harms aquatic life by impairing gill functions and causing hormonal interference. Changing the water quality standard for manganese to 0.3 mg/l is necessary to protect human health and the health of our waterways.

I also request that the manganese water quality standard's point of compliance remain at the point of discharge in order to hold dischargers accountable for manganese control and treatment and to protect waterways from excessive manganese pollution. Changing the point of compliance to the point of intake for drinking water supplies would strip Pennsylvania's waterways of valuable protections that have been in place for decades. Aquatic life would be threatened because stream segments would not be subject to manganese limits unless they are located close to a drinking water supply intake. Furthermore, these standards wouldn't even apply to streams where no potable water supply intake exists. Changing the point of compliance to drinking water intakes would also fail to protect those who use waterways for recreation. Human

health and our aquatic ecosystems should not have to be jeopardized and the public should not be forced to bear the costs of treating manganese pollution in order to save the mining industry money on compliance costs.

The standard should be protecting waterways and the many people who use them. There is an excellent science-based case for changing the water quality standards. However, there is NO science-based case for changing the point of compliance requirements, and in fact all the science (not just hydrologic and environmental, but also public health) emphasizes that the point of compliance must not be changed. So please do change the water quality standards, as proposed. And please do NOT change the point of compliance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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