

#3260

Form Letter A 59-60

Stephen Hoffman

From: EP, RegComments <ra-epregcomments@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 12:57 PM
To: EP, RegComments; Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; IRRRC; Troutman, Nick; King, Glendon; Collins, Tim; Iversen, Sarah A.
Cc: Reiley, Robert A.; Shirley, Jessica; Chalfant, Brian
Subject: Form Letter 1 Final Count - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese (#7-553)
Attachments: Form Letter 1 Most Stringent WQS Manganese (7-553).pdf

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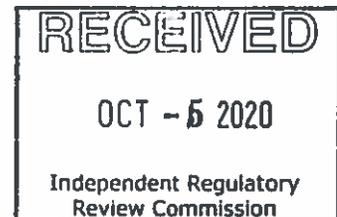
Good afternoon,

Attached is the first form letter DEP received regarding Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese (#7-553), which is labeled "Most Stringent WQS for Manganese." On September 22, 2020, we informed you that we had received 58 copies of this letter via email as of that date.

Subsequently, we received 2 additional copies of this form letter, for a total of 60 copies received during the public comment period.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Griffin | Regulatory Coordinator
Department of Environmental Protection | Policy Office
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA
Phone: 717.772.3277 | Fax: 717.783.8926
Email: laurgriffi@pa.gov
www.dep.pa.gov



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In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices will remain closed until restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, I will be working remotely to continue the mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and frequently retrieving emails. Thank you for your patience.

FORM LETTER 1: "Most Stringent WQS for Manganese"

Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese and Implementation (#7-553)

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Board and the Pennsylvania Dept of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to protect aquatic life, stream health, and water supplies by adopting the most stringent water quality standard being proposed for manganese currently – 0.3 mg/l. This standard will go a long way to getting toxins out of our streams that often originate from mining and industry.

In addition to the more stringent 0.3 mg/l standard, I also request that this standard apply at the point of discharge to ensure that dischargers best protect stream health and aquatic life. Manganese is a persistent contaminant that can be carried long distances downstream. The only way to prevent manganese from reaching downstream sections is to enforce effluent limits at the point of discharge. Under this point of discharge alternative, the manganese criterion for the protection of human health would be applicable in all surface waters to protect all relevant water uses. Because of this, this alternative would afford aquatic life an appropriate level of protection from the negative impacts of manganese. There would also be cost savings by public water systems because manganese levels in source waters would be lower and less treatment would be necessary to meet drinking water regulations. This option also ensures that all streams are protected from the discharge of manganese whether they have a downstream water intake or not.