

Testimony for Water Quality Standards for Manganese and Implementation

Carolyn Speicher
729 S Juliana St
Bedford, PA 15522
Carolynetwiler@gmail.com
Private Citizen

My name is Carolyn Speicher and I have lived in Pennsylvania for my whole life. As a taxpaying resident of the Commonwealth I have the following comments on the proposed rulemaking.

- In some locations throughout the Commonwealth, ambient background levels of manganese are higher than the proposed limit and retaining the current discharge system does not add Mn to the streams any more than already permitted
- Water treatment plants already have to reach a standard even lower for drinking water than either limit so changing the compliance level before treatment seems to not offer any actual benefit to supplied drinking water.
- Water treatment facilities are generally more capable of handling water treatment of this kind than waste water treatment facilities. Waste water facilities tend to only use biological treatment not specialized for manganese.
- The cost of manganese removal is high compared to any environmental benefit. There may be challenges with space limitations, chemical dosage quirks, sludge handling and additional personnel costs.
- PA DEP already has the tools to manage site specific challenges. There is no need to spend taxpayer dollars on an issue with no proven risk or benefit to the public.
- I oppose changing the current limit and support the point of compliance as being at the intake to the first downstream public water supply, per Act 40 of 2017.

