

Stephen Hoffman

3260

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:09 PM
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)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

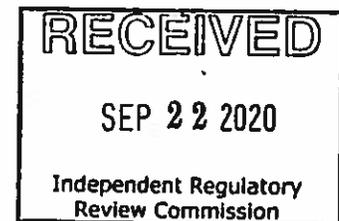


Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Gail Mershon
citizen (gaildmershon@gmail.com)
614 W Sedgwick St
Philadelphia, PA 19119 US



Comments entered:

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

Dear PADEP,

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. These toxins have been associated with a severe illness similar to Parkinson's disease.

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, which can be severely harmed by manganese. 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.

Why would we allow profitable polluters to benefit from poisoning our natural lands?

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

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov