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**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)

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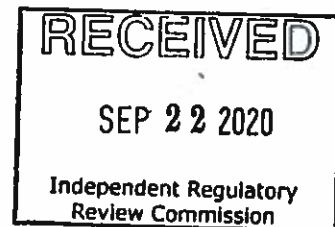


**Re: eComment System**

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

**Commenter Information:**

Richard Van Aken  
 citizen (richsv@comcast.net)  
 68 Murray Rd.  
 Churchville, PA 18966 US



**Comments entered:**

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.  
Considering that aquatic life in the form of fish and birds that are dependent on freshwater have declined by greater than 84% since 1970 it behooves us to act in the best interests of the people and their environment by passing this legislation that will do just that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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