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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-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese and Implementation (#7-553)

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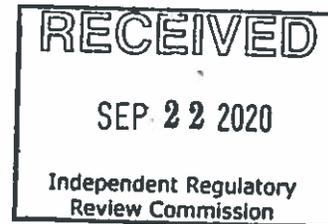


**Re: eComment System**

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

**Commenter Information:**

Sharon Furlong  
 citizen (sfurlong5@verizon.net)  
 133 E. Bristol Road  
 Feasterville, PA 19053 US



**Comments entered:**

I am writing to respectfully request that the Environmental Quality Board and the Pennsylvania Dept of Environmental Protection (PADEP) better 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 is the only standard, according to the latest science of public health and toxic chemicals that will actually help in getting toxins out of our streams that too often originate from mining and industry.

In addition to the more stringent 0.3 mg/l standard, I also respectfully request that this standard apply at the point of discharge to ensure that dischargers themselves are the ones protecting the public from their own activities, not municipal water systems. In addition, point of discharge designation is best in protecting 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.

I am sure that you have learned that all ecosystems are closed systems: what one does at point A affects all other points. One cannot do something to harm one part of this continuum without it harming everything else. In addition, we are not islands removed from Nature. We use water to sustain our life, and so we are the ones who need to make sure water is protected from those wishing to use it as a dumping ground instead for their industry waste. We need clean water, and so does everything else that is alive. Do the right thing here. Thank you.

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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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