

Stephen Hoffman

#3260

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; 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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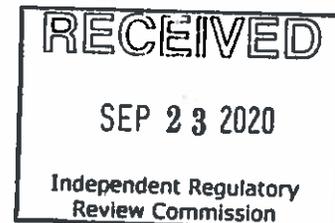


Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Diane Selvaggio
citizen (dianeselvaggio@hotmail.com)
5096 Hardt Rd
Gibsonia, PA 15044 US



Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

To Whom It May Concern:

Especially as a grandparent and a retired biologist, I am deeply concerned about our water quality from all sources, both now and into the future. Consequently, I encourage the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to protect human health and all uses of Pennsylvania streams by adopting the more stringent manganese water quality standard of 0.3 mg/l and by requiring that the discharge point remains the point of compliance for this standard.

Manganese is a naturally occurring element and an important micronutrient necessary for good health, but as true with other naturally occurring elements, the dose makes the poison. High or long-term exposures can lead to serious human health impacts including neurological impacts. Excessive manganese is also harmful to aquatic life and can impact other water uses including agriculture and recreation.

Manganese enters our waters primarily through discharges from mining and quarry operations.

The current manganese standard of 1.0 mg/l is inadequate to protect human health from the neurotoxicological effect of manganese. The proposed standard of 0.3 mg/l is protective of human health (and other water uses), and so it should be adopted by the EQB.

Even more importantly, the EQB must reject the proposed alternative to change the point of compliance from the discharge point to the intake point for drinking water supplies because:

- 1) in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, the discharger of pollution must be responsible for limiting the pollution it dumps into our waters;
- 2) manganese can travel far downstream meaning that compliance at the point of discharge protects all water uses of our streams, including human drinking water sources, our food supply, and aquatic life; and
- 3) requiring compliance at the point of discharge protects all of Pennsylvania's waters, regardless of whether there is a drinking water supply downstream.

In sum, the EQB must adopt the more stringent manganese water quality standard of 0.3 mg/l as well as require that the discharge point remains the point of compliance for this standard.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this change.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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