

**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-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:

Nicole Wagman  
citizen (tathrin@gmail.com)  
38 East Main Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 US



Comments entered:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to protect human health and all uses of our streams by adopting the more stringent manganese water quality standard of 0.3 mg/l and requiring that the discharge point remains the point of compliance for this standard. Our water is the most crucial, life-sustaining element of our environment, and any pollution thereof can spread untold harm through the interconnected nature of waterways and sources.

While manganese is a naturally occurring element, with high or long-term exposure it can lead to serious human health impacts including neurological impacts. Manganese is also harmful to aquatic life and can impact other water uses such as agriculture and recreation. Manganese enters our waters primarily through discharges from mining and quarry operations, and in regards to such sources of pollution and their regulation, 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 more protective of human health (and other water uses) and therefore should be adopted by the EQB.

Perhaps more importantly though, 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. First, 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. Dilution is not the solution to pollution! Second, because manganese can travel far downstream, compliance at the point of discharge protects all water uses of our streams, including aquatic life. Third, requiring compliance at the point of discharge protects all of Pennsylvania's waters, regardless of whether there is a drinking water supply downstream, and since all water is connected, it ultimately protects our drinking water as well. Please do not let unmitigated industry greed endanger the lives and health of all people.

With great concern,

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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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PA Department of Environmental Protection  
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