

Stephen Hoffman

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From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:24 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:

Timothy Danehy
citizen (timdanehy@gmail.com)
188 McKay Road
Saxonburg, PA 16056 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 NOT TO ADOPT more stringent manganese water quality standard of 0.3 mg/L.

The science cited in developing this overly-restrictive limit is questionable and the limit will not only have far reaching financial impacts on the waning mining industry in Pennsylvania but will likely result in additional mining companies declaring bankruptcy with the treatment liabilities being transferred to the Commonwealth. THIS IS A MISTAKE!

As an active environmental professional that designs, constructs, and maintains water treatment systems, including systems that effectively remove manganese from mine drainage, I have first-hand knowledge of the excessive and unnecessary costs associated with manganese treatment.

The federal government has chosen not to regulate manganese in drinking water in this manner and I cannot support the punitive limits being proposed by my home state.

As a taxpayer I fear that this action will end up increasing the cost to our government as more mining companies will be forced to walk away from their responsibilities.

The current manganese standard of 1.0 mg/l is MORE THAN ADEQUATE to protect human health.

The proposed standard of 0.3 mg/l is NONSENSICAL.

Please look past the reprimand that is being issued to the mining industry through these proposed changes to the long-term impact to the environment where we will have less organizations available to help manage our common mining legacy.

Tremendous progress has been made to address the impacts of mine drainage over the past several decades THROUGH PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS, please do not hamper this good work by creating hurdles too high to overcome.

For these reasons and my belief that these limits will lead to a potential environmental catastrophe, the EQB must NOT adopt the more stringent manganese water quality standard of 0.3 mg/L.

Respectfully submitted,

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