

# 3260

Stephen Hoffman

Form Letter D 145-169

**From:** EP, RegComments <ra-epregcomments@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 1:08 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; Troutman, Nick; Glendon King; Collins, Tim; Iversen, Sarah A.  
**Cc:** Reiley, Robert A.; Shirley, Jessica; Chalfant, Brian; Scott Schalles  
**Subject:** Form Letter 4 Final Count - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese (#7-553)  
**Attachments:** Form Letter 4 Change WQS for Manganese (7-533).pdf

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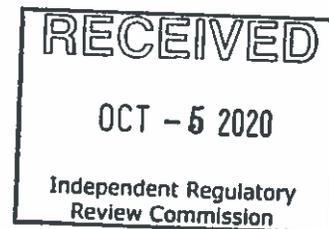
Good afternoon,

Attached is the fourth form letter DEP received regarding Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards for Manganese (#7-553), which is labeled "Change WQS for Manganese." On the morning of September 25, 2020, we informed you that we had received 144 copies of this letter via email as of that date.

Subsequently, we received 25 additional copies of this form letter, for a **total of 169 copies** received during the public comment period.

Thank you,  
Laura

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*In order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all DEP offices will remain closed until restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, I will be working remotely to continue the mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and frequently retrieving emails. Thank you for your patience.*

## **Form Letter 4: "Change Water Quality Standard on Manganese"**

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to change the water quality standard for manganese from 1 mg/l to a more stringent 0.3 mg/l. Research has proven that exposure to manganese is harmful to human health and, depending on the degree of exposure, can cause lasting neurological damage. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that manganese harms aquatic life by impairing gill functions and causing hormonal interference. Changing the water quality standard for manganese to 0.3 mg/l is necessary to protect human health and the health of our waterways.

I also request that the manganese water quality standard's point of compliance remain at the point of discharge in order to hold dischargers accountable for manganese control and treatment and to protect waterways from excessive manganese pollution. Changing the point of compliance to the point of intake for drinking water supplies would strip Pennsylvania's waterways of valuable protections that have been in place for decades. Aquatic life would be threatened because stream segments would not be subject to manganese limits unless they are located close to a drinking water supply intake. Furthermore, these standards wouldn't even apply to streams where no potable water supply intake exists. Changing the point of compliance to drinking water intakes would also fail to protect those who use waterways for recreation. Human health and our aquatic ecosystems should not have to be jeopardized and the public should not be forced to bear the costs of treating manganese pollution in order to save the mining industry money on compliance costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.