

Stephen Hoffman



From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; Iversen, Sarah A.
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556).

Commenter Information:

James Orben
(jkorben@aol.com)
PO Box 13
Springtown, PA 18081 US

Comments entered:

Dear PA Environmental Quality Board,

I urge the Department of Environmental Protection to fully consider its mission to public health and the environment before finalizing its proposed revisions to Chapter 105, governing dams, water obstructions, and encroachments into aquatic resources. The township where I live, Springfield (Bucks County), depends entirely on ground water for our water supply. We need local review of any development project that affects the movement of water in our local watersheds. How would you like it if a decision made two counties over allowed a natural gas pipeline to cross your back yard and contaminate your well?

The Department should reconsider its proposal to require a company seeking a permit for an industry activity that crosses multiple counties – like a pipeline – to submit only one application, rather than needing to go to each county the activity touches. This will make it harder for the counties and their residents to learn about proposed industrial activities that might affect their waters and therefore make it harder for citizens to participate and have a voice in the process.

Second, the Department should also be revising these regulations to protect our wetlands and waterways and make it harder for industry to negatively impact them. Instead, the Department

is making it easier for industry to get permits or evade the permitting process altogether by expanding the number of activities eligible for a waiver out of the permitting process. Because some Pennsylvania bodies of water are so important or threatened, there should be no waivers allowed for activities in these waterways, no matter how small the stream size. The Department should reduce, not expand, the number of waivers granted, and should not allow any waivers for activities impacting EV, HQ, Class A, wild trout, or already impaired streams. Our Cooks Creek Watershed, already classified EV, is under stress from increased runoff due to climate change. We need the ability to review and reject projects that would impair the quality of our EV watershed. Please do not finalize these proposed revisions to Chapter 105. These revisions would only increase the stress on our already stressed EXCEPTIONAL VALUE WATERSHED.

I LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY. I ALSO LIVE IN THE COOKS CREEK WATERSHED, AN EV WATERSHED. WE WHO LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP RELY ON OUR GROUNDWATER FOR OUR DOMESTIC WATER USE. ANY PROJECT AFFECTING OUR GROUNDWATER OR SURFACE WATER NEEDS LOCAL REVIEW. WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RUNNING THROUGH YOUR BACKYARD AND CONTAMINATING YOUR WELL COULD BE BUILT WITHOUT YOUR AGREEMENT? THINK ABOUT IT!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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