



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; lversen, 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:

Park and Sharon Furlong
 (sfurlong5@verizon.net)
 133 E Bristol Rd
 Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053 US

Comments entered:

Dear PA Environmental Quality Board,

We are demanding that the Department of Environmental Protection fully considers 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. We have been quite concerned about the seeming abandonment of that mission that mandates protection of Natural resources for all Pennsylvanians. It had been some years since PA DEP has considered cumulative impacts of projects, this setting the stage for pockets of disasters, often in poor neighborhoods, with little regard to ceasing such toxic behavior.

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.

Granting a waiver is giving a green light. Allowing waivers that result in death and destruction is criminal. This needs to stop. NOW.

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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