



Stephen Hoffman

From: EP, RegComments <ra-epregcomments@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:09 PM
To: IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; Iversen, Sarah A.; Troutman, Nick; Glendon King; Emily.Eyster@pasenate.com
Cc: EP, RegComments; Michelle Elliott
Subject: IRRRC #3278 Post-Public Comment Period Submission - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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Good afternoon,

The email below is a comment received after the close of the public comment period on February 3, 2021, regarding Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556).

Thank you,
 Laura

Laura Griffin | Regulatory Coordinator
 Department of Environmental Protection | Policy Office
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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.

From: Robert Schott <acroneuria@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 11:48 AM
To: EP, RegComments <ra-epregcomments@pa.gov>
Subject: [External] Comments on EQB's Proposed Revisions to Major Wetland Protection and Waterway Obstruction Permitting Regulations

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Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I worked as an Aquatic Biologist with DER/DEP for almost 33 years enforcing Pennsylvania's environmental regulations to protect the Waters of the Commonwealth. I urge the EQB 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.

First, the Board unfairly consulted with industry groups early in the revision process, without giving public interest groups this same early access or even communicating that a revision of these regulations was happening. The Board should seek the same early feedback from public interest groups who speak up for the safety of the public and the environment. At a minimum, the Board should give comments from environmental and public interests groups significant consideration now, and their comments should be treated as an opportunity for further dialogue and contribution.

Second, the Board missed an opportunity to revise those parts of the permitting process that have become contorted to serve industry. The Board should be revising these regulations to protect our wetlands and waterways and make it harder for industry to negatively impact them. Instead, the Board 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 of our waterbodies in Pennsylvania are so important or threatened, there should be no waivers allowed for activities in these waterbodies, no matter how small the stream size. The Board 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.

Third, the Board 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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Robert Schott
183 Hiddenwood Dr
Harrisburg, PA 17110