



## Madison Brame

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:15 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Osenbach, Matt; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC  
**Cc:** c-jflanaga@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

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### Re: eComment System

#### The Environmental Quality Board has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577).

##### Commenter Information:

Phyllis Blumberg  
 PA Jewish Earth Alliance (Phyllis2723@gmail.com)  
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##### Comments entered:

Throughout my life I have enjoyed the Delaware River for recreational activities. In the northern part of PA, the water is so clear and clean that I swim and eat fish caught in the river, especially around the Delaware Water Gap. But around Philly and south of Philadelphia the water is visibly polluted. One of the main reasons for this pollution is that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP) allows more pollution throughout the 27 miles of the Delaware that flows through Philadelphia, than they do anywhere else along the river. In fact, up to 15 billion gallons of untreated sewage and wastewater can be discharged into the Philadelphia section of the Delaware River each year. Pollution often contains toxic substances, bacteria, and viruses - all of which endanger our and animals' health. This long standing, but unjustified pollution exemption is even more distressing because the Delaware River is a source of drinking water for many people, especially frontline communities in and around Philadelphia and further South.

As a nature lover, I have observed that the Delaware River watershed is home to a wide variety of wildlife species that depend on the Delaware River and its ecosystems to survive and thrive. In addition, the Delaware River flows into the Chesapeake Bay which flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Untreated, toxic sewage and wastewater threaten these plants and animals that live in the Delaware River, the Chesapeake Bay and even the Atlantic Ocean.

All living creatures, humans, animals, and plants, need and deserve clean water.

I urge the PA. DEP to close this Delaware River pollution loophole immediately. So that this section of the river will be subject to the same water quality standards that exist for the rest of the Delaware River and help protect our lives.

Thank you for allowing ordinary citizens the opportunity to submit comments.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ezra Thrush

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