

**Madison Brame**

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:43 AM  
**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:

David Wolk, MD  
(dwolkfp@gmail.com)  
2 Schiller Ave  
Penn Valley, PA 19072 US

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Comments entered:

I thank the Environmental Quality Board (the Board) for improving aquatic life and human health criteria for many dangerous pollutants like cadmium, formaldehyde and xylene, among others. However, the Board has unfortunately chosen not to update aquatic life and human health criteria for many other dangerous pollutants that regularly pollute our waterways such as fecal coliform, chloride, chlorine, and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MtBE). This is particularly relevant to Zones 3, 4 and 5 of the Delaware Estuary, which make up the majority of Philadelphia and Delaware County's portion of the Delaware River riverfront. Pollutants like fecal coliform, MtBE, and many others have contaminated this portion of the Delaware River for decades because of the large concentration of fossil fuel storage facilities, wastewater treatment centers and sewage and waste incinerators in this comparatively small section of the Delaware River. As a family physician who has practiced in Delaware County for over 25 years, I am very concerned about this.

While I applaud the Board for updating aquatic life and human health criteria for a significant amount of pollutants across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, individual waterways continue to be contaminated by unique pollutants and pollution sources that must be directly addressed. I urge DEP and DRBC to study the individual pollutants discharged by industrial facilities that are most responsible for preventing Zones 3, 4, and 5 of the Delaware Estuary from achieving universally strong fish reproduction and then propose standards to reduce those pollutants. This is critical to ensuring the continued improvement of water quality and protection of the health of impacted residents and aquatic life in this section of the Delaware River.

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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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