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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

August 19, 2010

Honorable John Hanger, Chairman Environmental Quality Board Rachel Carson State Office Building 400 Market Street, 16th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regulation #7-451 (IRRC #2821) Environmental Quality Board Water Quality Standards Implementation

Dear Chairman Hanger:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the subject regulation today. Our order is enclosed and will be available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

Arthur Coccodrilli

Chairman

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Enclosure

cc: Honorable Mary Jo White, Majority Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Honorable Raphael J. Musto, Minority Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Honorable Camille George, Majority Chairman, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Honorable Scott E. Hutchinson, Minority Chairman, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION APPROVAL ORDER

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held August 19, 2010

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman George D. Bedwick, Vice Chairman S. David Fineman, Esq., by Phone Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III John F. Mizner, Esq.

Regulation No. 7-451 (#2821) Environmental Quality Board Water Quality Standards Implementation

On February 3, 2010, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Environmental Quality Board (Board). This rulemaking amends 25 Pa. Code Chapter 96. The proposed regulation was published in the February 13, 2010 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on July 16, 2010.

This regulation provides methods for facilities subject to limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to meet those limits by working with other facilities and/or nonpoint sources. The regulation also assists with achievement of Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction goals from the agriculture sector. Finally, it codifies, with revisions, the Department of Environmental Protection's existing guidance on nutrient and sediment credit trading.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Board (35 P.S. §§691.5 (b), 691.202, 691.307 and 691.402) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman