

**PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN WATER**

**RECEIVED**  
 Mar 17 2025  
 Independent Regulatory  
 Review Commission  
 Exceptional Value Workgroup  
 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1650  
 Philadelphia PA 19107  
 215-545-5250 phone  
 215-545-2315 fax

March 17, 2025

**Submitted via the portal:** <http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eCommentRegComments@pa.gov>

Ms. Jessica Shirley  
 Chairperson, Environmental Quality Board  
 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Bldg.  
 400 Market Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101  
 PA Environmental Quality Board

**Re: Support for Class A Stream Redesignations and Water Quality Standards [55 Pa.B. 914] [Saturday, February 1, 2025]**

Dear Chairperson Shirley:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water's Exceptional Value Workgroup (CCWEV), we are writing to express our full support of the proposal to amend Chapter 93 regulations that were adopted by the Environmental Quality Board at its September 10, 2024 meeting. The amendments will modify the drainage lists in §§93.9c, 93.9d, 93.9f, 93.9h, 93.9i, 93.9k, 93.9l, 93.9m, 93.9n, 93.9o, 93.9p, 93.9q, 93.9r, 93.9s, 93.9x and 93.9z.

This proposed rulemaking upgrades and secures long overdue and much needed protection to 489.35 stream miles with an existing use of High Quality (HQ) based upon their classifications as important Class A wild trout streams. These important cool and clean freshwater streams flow through the Delaware, Susquehanna, Ohio, Lake Erie and Potomac River basins and are listed here:

<https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol55/55-5/147.html>.

Thank you for this critical work conducted by the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA DEP. CCWEV has been following and commenting throughout this lengthy scientific and public process since its inception. We fully support other department and community efforts and science to continue to upgrade deserving streams that keep our communities clean, thriving and healthy here in the Commonwealth.

CCWEV looks forward to these proposed amendments taking effect upon the final form publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Once approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), water

quality standards are used to implement the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§1251—1389 (CWA). We see from EPA's letter (March 14, 2025) the agency is also in full support of these upgrades and will be notifying the USFWS as well. We hope to support and see many more streams gain stronger protections they deserve. If we can be of any more help in these matters please feel free to reach out to us.

The Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water is a coalition of over 180 environmental, conservation, sporting, and religious groups from all corners of the state that speaks in one voice in support of federal and state policies to protect and restore Pennsylvania's water resources. The Exceptional Value workgroup focuses on protection of the Commonwealth's highest quality streams.

Sincerely,



Faith Zerbe  
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
[faith@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:faith@delawareriverkeeper.org)  
215-369-1188 ext. 110



Eric Harder  
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair  
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper  
[eric@mtwatershed.com](mailto:eric@mtwatershed.com)  
724-455-4200 ext. 2

cc. Michael (Josh) Lookenbill, PA DEP Program Manager, Water Quality Division, Bureau of Clean Water, [mlookenbil@pa.gov](mailto:mlookenbil@pa.gov)

Kristin Bowman Kavanagh, DRBC, Executive Director, [kristen.b.kavanagh@drbc.gov](mailto:kristen.b.kavanagh@drbc.gov)

Jessica Martinsen, USEPA, Chief Standards and TMDLs Section, [martinsen.jessica@epa.gov](mailto:martinsen.jessica@epa.gov)