



Take Action to Protect Clean Water

Erosion & Sediment Control (#7-440) and
Wastewater Treatment Requirements (#7-446)

Pennsylvania's clean water is in danger – from development, runoff, and industries like natural gas drilling (especially in the Marcellus Shale formation) and mining.

We depend on our state's over 80,000 miles of rivers and streams for safe drinking water for our families and a healthy habitat for aquatic life.

We also need clean water for a vibrant economy. Pennsylvania's outdoor tourism and recreation industries are major contributors to our economy. In 2008, our tourism industry provided \$18 billion in wages to more than 600,000 residents. Fishing alone generates \$4.7 billion per year in revenue for the state, along with 43,000 jobs. We must protect the clean water resources that drive these industries.

Fortunately, a package of clean drinking water regulations has been proposed that would protect our rivers and streams for generations to come.

Protect our water from drilling and mining pollution.

A proposed regulation (Wastewater Treatment Requirements #7-446) would establish a protective pollution limit for streams and force drillers and other sources of wastewater to control their polluted wastewater.

Industrial pollution, known as total dissolve solids (TDS), has already polluted major waterways and has led to massive fish kills. For example:

- In late 2008, high TDS levels in the waters of the Monongahela River (Mon) south of Pittsburgh threatened to shut down industries dependent upon the river's fresh water for their operations and made household water undrinkable for approximately 330,000 people in the southwestern part of the state;
- In August and September 2009, the discharge of high-TDS wastewater from coal mines in West Virginia and Pennsylvania into Dunkard Creek, a tributary of the Mon, wiped out virtually all aquatic life in that stream.

Over the next several years, a dramatic increase in drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale will create millions of gallons of wastewater highly polluted with TDS that will make this problem much worse in rivers and streams throughout the state, unless we take action now. We must protect our waterways before it's too late.

Use natural filters to protect for our best rivers and streams.

Another proposed regulation would require that some developers establish or maintain a 150-foot green space planted with vegetation to act as a buffer between new development and our best streams and rivers. These buffers reduce pollution, stream bank erosion, flooding and flood damage, and provide food and shade for aquatic life.

Buffers also make good economic sense by reducing the costs of stormwater management and drinking water treatment and increasing property values. Many of these high-quality rivers and streams support our robust outdoor recreation and tourism industries – and the jobs that go with them.

This regulation will go a long way to protect the long-term health and well-being of our rivers and streams.

Take Action!

Together we can make a difference.

Go to www.pennfuture.org and click on TAKE ACTION.