

Joosten, Sandy

From: Anthony Capobianco <acapobia1@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 5:31 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Subject: Does the DEP have to hold a bake sale to protect the environment?

Dear Dr. Klein

I am extremely concerned with the recent audit by the Pennsylvania Auditor General which found that the Department of Environmental Protection lacks sufficient resources to effectively carry out its job to protect the environment and public health from the ongoing threat of Marcellus Shale Drilling. The findings are far more grave and scary than just a lack of money to support basic record keeping activities. They speak to a system that is outdated, inconsistent and promotes a culture of coziness with the very industry they are supposed to regulate. Some of findings I found particularly alarming were:

- DEP currently does not have a routine schedule to inspect gas well sites and the agency takes advantage of a "loophole" that requires inspections only if the department has the financial and human resources to do so.
- DEP has a penchant for seeking voluntary compliance and encouraging industry to work out a solution with impacted homeowners instead of issuing violations for cases where industry impacted a water supply.
- DEP relies on a voluntary system of reporting where and how fracking waste is disposed, instead of using a system, where regulators can see how waste is handled from well site to disposal.
- DEP's system to track complaints related to oil and gas development is "woefully inadequate."

You must take action to address these issues and restore my and the public's confidence in the DEP. I urge you to increase DEP's funding so it has the resources that it needs to perform its job! I also encourage you to adopt and implement all 29 recommendations from the Auditor General, 18 of which will not cost taxpayers a penny.

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