

ROBERT F. "ROB" MATZIE  
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16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives  
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April 5, 2022

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

As you know, PennEnergy has once again filed a permit application to withdraw millions of gallons of water per day from the Big Sewickley Creek in Economy Borough. Once again, I am writing to ask that this request be denied.

When I wrote to you in July of last year, I listed a variety of reasons why this is a bad idea. Nothing contained in the new application changes that; fishing will still be impacted, wildlife species will still be threatened, and summer drought conditions will still be exacerbated.

Those issues will not just detrimentally affect the creek and surrounding habitat, they have the potential to destroy the myriad of recreational activities enjoyed by residents as well.

As I've said several times before, I support natural gas extraction, along with strong environmental protections and local input. In most cases, I believe we can have a strong, diverse energy portfolio and maintain a clean, healthy environment. But not in this case, not from this waterway, and not with this application.

In DEP's denial of PennEnergy's 1<sup>st</sup> application in October 2021, seven serious deficiencies were noted. But really only one deficiency should have been enough for denial – the one that cites a failure to provide "enough information to determine if the proposed project has a substantial risk to the environment." In my opinion, that remains the case with this application.

I respectfully request that DEP, once again, deny PennEnergy's application to draw water out of Big Sewickley Creek.

"SERVING BEAVER & ALLEGHENY COUNTIES"

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
ROBERT F. MATZIE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CC: Greg Kauffman, Director, Legislative Affairs, DEP  
Brian Schimmel, DEP Local Government Liaison