



February 3, 2015

John Quigley  
Chairperson, Environmental Quality Board  
Acting Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection  
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Quigley:

On behalf of our fellow co-petitioners, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is pleased to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) a stream redesignation petition for the Hosensack Creek watershed located in Lehigh and Montgomery Counties. We believe this watershed is deserving of special protection and Exceptional Value status.

Co-petitioners for the Hosensack redesignation petition include the Perkiomen Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Lower Milford Township. DRN and its co-petitioners believe that it is critical that efforts are taken immediately by PADEP to provide the Hosensack Creek basin with Exceptional Value Existing Use protections.

This creek and its tributaries were among the streams included in the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed redesignation package that DRN and other co-petitioners submitted to PADEP on December 8, 2006. That initial petition was subsequently supplemented with additional data and supporting documents. On Sept 18, 2013, PADEP provided notice that its draft antidegradation assessment report for the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed was posted for a 30-day public comment. In this report, PADEP recommended all streams covered by the petition remain at their current designated uses. At the request of DRN and the co-petitioners, the comment period was extended for an additional 30 days. The co-petitioners subsequently submitted additional data and information requesting PADEP reconsider.

On February 11, 2014, DRN and co-petitioners were notified that PADEP had finalized its report to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). Consideration of the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed was initially scheduled for the EQB's February 18th meeting, but the agenda item was postponed until the

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EQB's March 18th meeting at the request of DRN and co-petitioners. At its March meeting, during discussion of the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed petition, the EQB accepted PADEP's recommendation of no change in current designated uses, but also waived the requirement for a two year wait period before any or all streams covered under the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed petition could be reconsidered for a change in designated use. We are submitting this redesignation petition under the waiver granted by the EQB at its March 18, 2014 meeting.

In addition to the information provided here for the Hosensack Creek basin, we also request PADEP consider or refer to past data and community support for the Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed petition package because it included data and community support for the Hosensack Creek basin. The original Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed petition drew broad support from the Upper Perkiomen community with over 84 landowners and businesses from the region supporting that petition.

The Upper Perkiomen Creek watershed petition was jointly submitted by DRN, Perkiomen Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Lehigh County Conservation District, Montgomery County Conservation District, and Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. The petition garnered support with state elected officials, including Senator Mensch, Senator Brown, Representative Vitali, Representative Simmons, and Representative Toepel, expressing support. When in office, former Senator Wonderling and former Representative Kessler were also supporters. Lower Milford Township, now a co-petitioner, also supported the original petition and helped present at the March 18, 2014 EQB meeting. Local commitment to securing stronger protection for the Hosensack Creek basin remains strong.

If your staff have questions about the petition, please contact Faith Zerbe at 215-369-1188, ext. 110. We look forward to working with the Department to make this redesignation petition a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Maya K. van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper

cc: Chaz MacDonald, President, Perkiomen Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited  
Donna Wright, Chair, Lower Milford Township Supervisor  
Gustave Meyer, IV, District Manager, Montgomery County Conservation District  
Krista Schierer, Watershed Specialist, Montgomery County Conservation District  
William McFadden, District Manager, Lehigh County Conservation District  
Andrew Meadows, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy  
Saible O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy  
Senator Pat Brown, Pennsylvania State Senate, 16<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Bob Mensch, Pennsylvania State Senate, 24<sup>th</sup> District

Representative Greg Vitali, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 166<sup>th</sup> District; Minority Chairman, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Representative Justin Simmons, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 131<sup>st</sup> District

Representative Marcy Toepel, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 147<sup>st</sup> District

John Arway, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Mike Kauffman, Biologist, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Krissy Kasserman, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, Mountain Watershed Association; Co-Chair. Campaign for Clean Water Exceptional Value Waters Work Group

Laura Edinger, Regulatory Coordinator, Environmental Quality Board

Gary Walters, Chief, PADEP, Water Quality Standards Monitoring and Assessment

Michael (Josh) Lookenbill, Biologist, PADEP, Water Quality Standards Monitoring and Assessment