



October 7, 2013

Michele Tate
Regulatory Coordinator
Policy Office
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

*Re: Notification – Petition Report – Perkiomen Creek (Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Lehigh Counties);
Findings and Recommendations for Public Review and Comment*

Dear Ms. Tate:

These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC), Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited (PVTU), Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD), four of the lead co-petitioners requesting to upgrade the designation of the Upper Perkiomen Creek.

We have received the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Upper Perkiomen Creek report and our organizations are carefully considering the agency's findings and recommendations. Our petition was accepted for study in February 2007 with DEP monitoring taking place from March to May 2007. The report we recently received summarizes the results of this monitoring and also responds to our request for consideration of additional qualifying criteria.

Once a report on a petition request is complete, DEP provides affected municipalities and the co-petitioners a 30-day comment period to review the agency's findings and recommendations. The DEP's 26-page report on the Upper Perkiomen represents more than six years of study and consideration by the agency of our request to upgrade the Upper Perkiomen Creek. We are requesting a minimum 12 month extension of the 30-day period that ends by the close of business on October 17, 2013. We are requesting this time to thoroughly and exhaustively consider DEP's findings and recommendations, gather data following agency sampling protocol, and prepare our response and comment on the recommendation to retain the current designations.

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Also, in addition to the lead petitioners, this petition had as co-petitioners over 79 other organizations and individual supporters. We are seeking this extension to ensure that all our co-petitioners can be informed about DEP's findings and can be provided with the link to the report online or a paper copy of the report. We want to ensure that all our co-petitioners have the opportunity to review the report and consider DEP's findings and recommendations. In addition to our co-petitioners, we are aware of other interested persons who may submit comments on the stream report.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For administrative purposes, please send correspondence concerning this petition to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Sincerely,



Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

William McFadden
District Manager
Lehigh County Conservation District

Charles MacDonald
President
Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited, Chapter #332

Andrew Meadows
Board Chair
Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

cc: Tony Shaw, Department of Environmental Protection