



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WARREN COUNTY



Dec. 6, 2013

To: DEP Northwest Regional office, 230 Chestnut St. Meadville PA 16335

From: League of Women Voters of Warren Co.

Phyllis Wright, Pres. 8 Stephen Rd Warren PA 16365 phone 814-726-1198

Subject: Clean Water Program in Warren County

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters supports the maximum protection of public health and the environment in all aspect of Marcellus Shale natural gas production, site restoration, safe disposal of waste water, and delivery to the customer by requiring the use of best practices, and promoting comprehensive regulation, communication, and adequate staffing across government agencies.

According to the recent proposed settlement between the state Department of Environmental Protection and Waste Treatment Corporation (WTC) of Warren, the WTC would pay a \$25,000 fine and be required to install upgrades to the plant and meet new discard limits by 2016 for violation of the Clean Streams Law into the Allegheny River. This follows the Oct. 12, 2012, study determining high levels of salts, metals, and radioactive compounds found downstream from WTC's discharge pipe.

As league of Women Voters of Warren County members and residents of Warren County, along the Allegheny River and with support of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, we are deeply concerned regarding the safety of our water for human and animal usage and harmful effects on our environment. These concerns include: health issues, possible food contamination (milk, meat and crops that have been irrigated with this water), recreation usage, and future economics of the river for tourism and other business usage. **The agreement between DEP and WTC allows the company to continue to discharge gas drilling waste water, not knowing if rates are significantly reduced from present unacceptable levels for the next two years, according to the Clean Water Action Group. Alternatives need to be implemented now to make our waterway safe. We need your assurance that there will be clean water without radioactivity and harmful chemicals and our water must meet the Clean Streams Law's standards immediately. If these harmful substances cannot be reduced to meet these standards now, then no further discharge should be allowed by WTC Corporation.**

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to receiving your response.