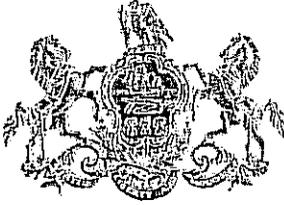


State Senator
Don White
41st Senatorial District



Senate of Pennsylvania

December 12, 2011

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The Honorable Robert J. Brooks
Municipality of Murrysville
4100 Sardis Road
Murrysville, PA 15668

Dear Mayor Brooks:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your views regarding the use of treated salt water brine (originating from natural gas shallow-well drilling) to control ice and dust on Pennsylvania roads. Your input is appreciated.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the practice of applying treated well waste (salt) water on road surfaces to reduce slippery conditions and to control dust has been used by municipalities, PennDOT and other qualifying entities for almost ten years. A permit to use this byproduct is required by DEP and contains strict guidelines for application. There are both treatment standards regarding what must be separated from the water before it can be applied, as well as where and how much can be used. Enclosed please find a fact sheet from DEP which gives an overview of the water's use, as well as details regarding the permitting process.

It is important to note that although DEP currently accepts general permit applications for the use of brine from shallow wells, the Department has no plans to open up the process to Marcellus Shale wells.

While I understand your concerns regarding this practice, I believe DEP is taking steps to ensure the use of brine does not result in polluting or harming the environment or water supply. Please know I will explore this issue further and keep your views in mind if legislation is introduced which addresses the safety and/or practice of using this byproduct on roads.

I appreciate knowing when an issue is of particular significance to citizens who reside and work in our senatorial district. Such input is important to me as I deal with the decisions of lawmaking. If I may be of any further assistance to you on this or other state-related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Don White
Senator, 41st District

RECEIVED DEC 15 2011

DCW/ama
Enclosure