

**COMMENTS TO THE JULY 28, 2016 DEP REPORT ON THE  
IMPAIRMENT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER  
FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE  
FOUNDATION**

**FROM: Cindy bower**

**Vice President North Central Region**

**Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation**

**The Susquehanna River is one of the most important and beloved public natural resources in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's Constitution provides that The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has the fiduciary duty as trustee of our public natural resources to conserve and maintain the integrity of the Susquehanna River and the flora and fauna that are a part of the river.**

**The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has provided DEP with clear scientific evidence that the water quality of the river is harming both the fish and the plant life in the river. It is also well known that the water quality of the River is causing direct, immediate and long term harm to the Chesapeake Bay.**

**For several decades now DEP has avoided designating the River as impaired because it will require major commitment of funds and resources to deal with the known problems, agricultural and municipal pollution.**

**There is no incremental response that is appropriate. The River needs to be declared impaired and we all need to do what is necessary to clean it up!**

**As trustee DEP has the constitutional mandate to declare the Susquehanna River as impaired, as requested by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.**