

Thank you so much for all that you do for Tennesseans and for considering this email

I won't be able to attend the 4/18/23 meeting for the Board, yet I wanted to share my support and thoughts on the Petition for Rulemaking, Concerning Department of Environment and Conservation Notices to the Public Relating to Water Related Permits and Related Actions, being submitted by Brian Paddock, Esq. and supported by eight petitioners with ample and varied experience in community and environmental advocacy.

I'm a resident of Greeneville (Greene County) in East Tennessee, and I care deeply about preserving the wonderful natural bounty of our state while also allowing for the necessary development that lets it thrive. My understanding is that TDEC has a long, storied history of ensuring authentic and dynamic public involvement with the various processes of balancing economic success with citizen health and well-being. I have spent several months researching and hearing from people about public notices and their experiences, good or bad, with public notice around certain types of local community development. I do work with local groups that often have environmental concerns arising from changed conditions on the land and water after generations of living in the same area, and I believe deeply that people who live on the land, who know the forests, fish, and waters should always be invited to let us know what they know.

We all fully understand that TDEC cannot totally know what's happening in all the thousands of miles of creeks and streams all over this beautiful state, and there is much appreciation for how TDEC strives to inform the public as well as meaningfully involve the public whenever there will be changes that will affect a community and impact their quality of life, whether at the permitting stage or beyond.

I hope the Board will consider this petition carefully, as it is based on a real world problem, and this proposal is remedying an omission in our present regulations such that more citizens can know about what is happening in their communities with clarity and specificity.

If you see fit to do so, I would appreciate these thoughts being shared with the Board tomorrow at the meeting, if possible. I'm also happy to have it read into the record.

Thank you again for your time

With gratitude,
Chauncey O'Dell

To: Tennessee Board of Water Quality, Oil & Gas
and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

04/18/2023

RE: Petition for Rulemaking
Concerning Department of Environment and Conservation
Notices to the Public Relating to
Water Related Permits and Related Actions.

From: Anthony J. Wheeler, Environmental Representative For the Mountain Planning Group
1831 Lewis Mine Road
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Dear Board,

As development continues to put constant pressure on communities with significant environmental problems and limited options to deal with these issues, it is imperative that effective communications, clear rules, diligent oversight and enforcement be enacted. The referenced petition is critical for our communities in dealing with long term cumulative effects of inappropriate development in environmentally sensitive locations.

Our full support is offered to this petition.

Anthony Wheeler