4614

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. PARMENT, LIFTON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. MAGEE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to protection of water supplies

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Article 23 of the environmental conservation law is amended 2 by adding a new title 15 to read as follows: 3

TITLE 15

PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLIES

SECTION 23-1501. PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

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7 1. ANY OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER WHO AFFECTS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE 8 POTABLE WATER SUPPLY BY POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVI-SION 2 OF THIS SECTION SHALL RESTORE OR REPLACE THE AFFECTED SUPPLY WITH 9 AN ALTERNATE SOURCE OF WATER ADEQUATE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY 10 THE FOR PURPOSES SERVED BY THE SUPPLY. 11

POLLUTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OCCURRED WHEN ANY OF THE 12 2. 13 FOLLOWING PARAMETERS SHALL INCREASE BY AN AMOUNT TO CAUSE THE WATER FROM THE AFFECTED WELL TO EXCEED DRINKING WATER STANDARDS AS ESTABLISHED BY 14 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: 15 THE UNITED STATES CHLORIDES; PH; 16 TURBIDITY; IRON; MANGANESE; ALKALINITY; CALCIUM; CONDUCTIVITY; DISSOLVED 17 SOLIDS; HARDNESS; POTASSIUM; SODIUM; OIL AND GREASE; SULFATE; COLIFORM 18 OR METHANE.

THE EVENT THAT THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 19 IN 20 DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE FOREGOING PARAME-21 POLLUTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OCCURRED IF A PARAMETER TERS, 22 INCREASES BY TEN PERCENT OR MORE.

23 DIMINUTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OCCURRED WHEN THEVOLUME OF 24 WATER FROM AN AFFECTED WATER SUPPLY SHALL PRECIPITOUSLY DIMINISH BY 25 FIFTY PERCENT OR MORE.

3. ANY LANDOWNER, WATER PURVEYOR OR OTHER PERSON SUFFERING POLLUTION 26 27 OR DIMINUTION OF A WATER SUPPLY AS A RESULT OF THE DRILLING, TREATMENT,

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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ALTERATION OR OPERATION OF AN OIL OR GAS WELL MAY SO NOTIFY THE DEPART-1 MENT AND REQUEST THAT AN INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED. WITHIN TEN DAYS OF 2 SUCH NOTIFICATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INVESTIGATE ANY SUCH CLAIM AND 3 4 SHALL, WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION, MAKE A DETERMI-NATION. IF THE DEPARTMENT FINDS THAT THE POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION WAS CAUSED BY THE DRILLING, TREATMENT, ALTERATION OR OPERATION ACTIVITIES, 5 WAS 6 7 OR IF IT PRESUMES THE OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER RESPONSIBLE FOR 8 POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION 4 OF THIS SECTION THEN IT SHALL ISSUE SUCH ORDERS TO THE OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER AS ARE 9 10 NECESSARY TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION. SUCH ORDERS MAY INCLUDE ORDERS REQUIRING THE TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT OF 11 WATER SUPPLY WHERE IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION MAY 12 13 BE OF LIMITED DURATION.

4. UNLESS REBUTTED BY ONE OF THE FIVE DEFENSES ESTABLISHED IN SUBDIVISION 5 OF THIS SECTION, IT SHALL BE PRESUMED THAT AN OWNER, DRILLER OR
PRODUCER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION OF VOLUME OF A
WATER SUPPLY THAT IS WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF THE DRILLING, ALTERATION OR OPERATION ACTIVITIES, WHERE THE POLLUTION OCCURRED WITHIN SIX
MONTHS OR THE DIMINUTION OF VOLUME OCCURRED WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS
AFTER THE COMPLETION OF DRILLING, TREATMENT OR ALTERATION OF SUCH WELL.

5. IN ORDER TO REBUT THE PRESUMPTION OF LIABILITY ESTABLISHED IN SUBDIVISION 4 OF THIS SECTION, THE OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER MUST AFFIRMATIVELY PROVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE DEFENSES:

A. THE POLLUTION EXISTED PRIOR TO THE DRILLING, OPERATION, TREATMENT OR ALTERATION ACTIVITY AS DETERMINED BY A PREDRILLING, PRETREATMENT OR PREALTERATION SURVEY.

27 B. THE LANDOWNER OR WATER PURVEYOR REFUSED TO ALLOW THE OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER ACCESS TO CONDUCT A PREDRILLING OR PREALTERATION SURVEY OF 28 29 ACTIVE WATER SUPPLY. IF A LANDOWNER OR WATER PURVEYOR FAILS TO AN 30 RESPOND WITHIN THIRTY DAYS TO A NOTIFICATION SENT BY CERTIFIED OR REGIS-TERED MAIL, ADDRESSED TO THE OWNER OF RECORD AS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE 31 32 OF THE COUNTY CLERK, MADE BY THE OWNER, OPERATOR OR DRILLER DECLARING 33 THE INTENTION OF THE OWNER, OPERATOR OR DRILLER TO CONDUCT A PREDRILL-ING, PRETREAMENT OR PREALTERATION SURVEY, IT SHALL BE PRESUMED THAT THE 34 LANDOWNER HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THE OWNER, PRODUCER OR DRILLER TO CONDUCT 35 A PREDRILLING OR PREALTERATION SURVEY OF AN ACTIVE WATER SUPPLY. 36

37 C. THE WATER SUPPLY IS NOT WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF THE DRILLING, 38 ALTERATION OR OPERATION ACTIVITIES.

39 D. THE POLLUTION OCCURRED MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER COMPLETION OF 40 DRILLING, TREATMENT OR ALTERATION ACTIVITIES.

41 E. THE POLLUTION OCCURRED AS THE RESULT OF SOME CAUSE OTHER THAN THE 42 DRILLING, TREATMENT, OPERATION OR ALTERATION ACTIVITY.

6. ANY OWNER, DRILLER OR PRODUCER ELECTING TO PRESERVE ITS DEFENSES
UNDER PARAGRAPH A OR B OF SUBDIVISION 5 OF THIS SECTION SHALL RETAIN THE
SERVICES OF AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED LABORATORY TO CONDUCT THE PREDRILLING OR PREALTERATION SURVEY OF WATER SUPPLIES. A COPY OF THE RESULTS OF
ANY SUCH SURVEY SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE LANDOWNER,
WATER PURVEYOR OR OTHER PERSON IN MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

7. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PREVENT ANY LANDOWNER, WATER PURVEYOR
OR OTHER PERSON WHO CLAIMS POLLUTION OR DIMINUTION OF A WATER SUPPLY
FROM SEEKING ANY OTHER REMEDY THAT MAY BE PROVIDED AT LAW OR IN EQUITY.
S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after

53 it shall have become a law.