

# PLA News Letter

May 5, 1992

## ONE OF THE REASONS IT NEVER ENDS

We all know that environmental regulations can have dramatic and often devastating impacts on landowners and land use and development. Story after story is told about some poor citizen who has become ensnarled in a regulatory problem which defies solution on any rational basis. I have often heard the words "stunned", "astonished" and "outraged" used by people to describe the abusive conduct or arrogant attitude of an environmental regulator. I am sure readers of these pages are often struck with the thought "can this really be happening in Pennsylvania or America?"

When hearing about someone losing the right to use his land or being hit with an excessive penalty, a normal reaction is to think: "Something is really wrong here. I'll call my legislator and ask him to look into the situation." How many times has the response been "I've never heard of such a program. I'll look into it and get back to you" or "It couldn't be, that just doesn't sound right." When the legislator does get back to you, how many times have you heard: "I don't agree with it but my hands are tied, it's a DER regulation."

The normal reaction at this point is "Well, if we don't like it and he doesn't like it and he is our representative, why doesn't he do something about it?" Readers of the Landowner will also think to themselves "Isn't that just what PLA convinced Tom

