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Dear Commissioners,

Why are gas drillers in Pennsylvania looking to send their wastewater elsewhere - such as to conserved open space near the Delaware River? Frack wastewater is a big problem for drillers because there is so much volume of wastewater and no one has a good idea about where to put it. In fact, the volumes of wastewater now are several fold larger than in earlier years of fracking; the sheer volume is unmanageable. It cannot be returned to the water cycle it came from because it is contaminated with heavy metals, hydrocarbons, naturally occurring radioactive materials and high levels of salt. In my opinion, drillers should have thought more about the volume of waste before they began drilling. If fracked wastewater from Pennsylvania gas operations was allowed by DRBC to be transported to the Delaware River Basin, where could it be put? I worry that drillers may have underground injection in mind for a place to hide their waste. Please do not let underground injection of wastewater be allowed! It would be only a matter of time before some part of our now-protected watershed and source of drinking water for 17 million people would be permanently changed and adversely affected by long-lived toxic components of frack wastewater. Tracer chemical is not added to fracked gas operations, so the people responsible for spreading toxicity in the neighborhood could not easily be identified by DRBC. Is clean up possible to do? Who would do clean up? Who would pay for cleanup? There aren't any satisfactory answers.

The regulations proposed by the DRBC are setting up an unsustainable cycle of sending clean water out of the basin and bringing highly contaminated water into the basin. If we are to successfully combat climate change, we must stop our unsustainable practices and avoid implementing new ones.

DRBC's draft regulations do not specifically propose that injection wells that would hold frack wastewater be allowed in the Delaware River Watershed. However, they do propose to allow wastewater from fracking to be brought into the Watershed for storage, treatment and discharge so "storage" could mean long-term storage of wastewater in underground wells within the Basin. This is a practice that threatens public health and the environment. Injection of wastewater does not "treat" waste or remove contaminants, it simply moves the toxic wastewater produced by fracking from one

place and time to another. It risks the migration of untreated toxic and radioactive frack wastewater to aquifers and surface water through leaks from the injection well and spills and accidental releases while being handled. Injection wells are causing earthquakes in Ohio and Oklahoma as well as other locations, as documented by USGS and other scientific institutions. Injection wells are not leak-proof and can exposing groundwater and aquifers to contamination from the toxic mix that constitutes untreated frack wastewater when seals are broken and fractures occur as a result of seismic activity.

The newly released Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition speaks to the simple fact that you cannot completely protect people from fracking operations. We cannot prevent accidents from happening. As documented many times handling wastewater in the Delaware basin will cause impacts and contamination. It is not a question of if but when and where.

Please install a permanent ban and keep all fracking and related activities out of OUR Delaware River Basin.

Sincerely,

Linda Reik