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Dear Commissioners,

Delaware is the most vulnerable location on the East Coast.

In fact, at the very same time that warming is posing risks to our water supply, the amount of water required for fracking is increasing. "Oil and natural gas fracking, on average, uses more than 28 times the water it did 15 years ago, gulping up to 9.6 million gallons of water per well." More clean water contaminated means more waste. Fracking was never a good idea, but, as the problems it helped create intensify, it has become such a bad idea that it must be stopped. The Delaware River Basin Commission must provide the protections the Basin deserves and vote in favor of a full ban on fracking, water extraction, and fracking waste processing.

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.

As stated in the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition, growing evidence shows that regulations are simply not capable of preventing harm (pg 17). Further, cases of drinking water sources contaminated by drilling and fracking activities, or by associated waste disposal, are now proven. EPA's assessment of fracking's impacts on drinking water resources confirmed specific instances of water contamination caused by drilling and fracking related

activities and identified the various pathways by which this contamination has occurred: spills; discharge of fracking waste into rivers and streams; and underground migration of chemicals, including gas, into drinking water wells (pg18).

Sincerely,

Don Williams