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Dear Commissioners,

Please ban fracking. The data proves it is a health hazard and a danger to the planet.

A 2017 study by researchers at the Northeast Climate Science Center and Climate System Research Center at U. Mass Amherst found that the Northeastern U.S. is the fastest-warming region in the lower 48 states, heating at a rate 50 percent faster than the global average. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Records from the mid-twentieth century through 2000 show that the number of snow-covered days across the Northeast has decreased significantly." The shrinking snowpack and increased runoff will worsen as temperatures continue to rise. Further reducing our water supply by moving water out of the basin and exposing our remaining water to fracking waste contamination should not be permitted, especially when those practices support the fossil fuel production that is exacerbating warming in the first place.

Transmission lines have served as the conduit that connects fracking in Pennsylvania to power plants, processing facilities, export facilities, and other infrastructure projects that have spread through the state and across its borders into neighboring states. In the final report of the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force, PA DEP chief John Quigley said that within a few years, "In the next decade, Pennsylvania will undergo a substantial pipeline infrastructure build-out to transport gas and related byproducts from thousands of wells throughout the state.... The result will impact communities and the environment in every PA County." The DRBC's draft regulations do not address pipelines or any of the other infrastructure build-out occurring in the basin. Nevertheless, the regulations that would allow fracking waste to be brought into the basin and clean water to be taken out enable more fracking. And more fracking means more pipelines, more infrastructure., 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.

On March 13, leading scientists and physicians released the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition documenting fracking's harm to public health. Please read all of the study's findings. Their conclusion, and mine, is that the only way to truly protect public health is to prohibit fracking and all its associated activities (waste hauling, treatment, disposal). I urge you to ban all of these activities in your final regulations.

Please do the right thing. Fracking is morally unacceptable and financially unsound.

Sincerely,

Barbara Klinger