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Dear Commissioners,

The Delaware River is so much to so many. From the bustle of the Water Gap, to the solitude of an evening paddle, this area has something for everything. Each year there are more demands put on the ecosystem; more water taken, more traffic on the area highways, more houses and buildings going up in the watershed area, and more runoff to contribute to flooding. When is the river going to say enough, and we'll get to a point where we can no longer go back to the way it was? This is not something we can regulate ourselves out of.

Enabling the shale gas industry by allowing it to take our water and dump its waste in the basin means that we can expect more industrialization in the basin. We will see more pipelines, power plants, and processing facilities. All of that shale gas infrastructure is designed to be around longer than we can afford to be using fossil fuels. If the Commissioners take into account the cumulative climate impacts of the regulations they are considering, they will see they have no choice but to ban all fracking-related activities in the basin.

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., Pennsylvania's Wolf administration talks about a 100-year cycle of shale gas development. At present, there are about

10,000 wells in the ground. The industry's goal is 100,000 wells. In the past ten years, more than 300 confirmed cases of water contamination have occurred. Some of those cases involve several families. More than 9,400 complaints have been filed with the DEP. More than 4,400 of those are water-related. Most have gone unaddressed. More than 1200 peer-reviewed studies have identified wide-ranging health effects already impacting Pennsylvanians. Dead cattle and fish kills are just some of the indications that shale gas development is affecting our farm animals and wildlife. Quality of life is all but gone for many in the shale fields and the many more who now spend every available minute fighting pipeline and infrastructure projects. And all of that and much, much more is what has happened just ten years in. Any action by the DRBC that enables an industry that has done so much to harm Pennsylvanians in just ten years and exposes the basin to the particular threats fracking waste and water extraction pose is unacceptable. The DRBC must impose a full fracking ban.

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,

Matthew Davis