

Rachel

Bacon

130 East End Ave

New York

NY`

10028

rachelpricebacon@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Dear DRBC,

It is with great urgency that I ask you to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. There are important questions regarding the safety of the practice which still need to be addressed, and the threat of pollution to the natural environment , human health and wildlife are all too clear in areas where the practice is allowed. I urge you to be leaders in banning this unsustainable practice and looking for alternative forms of energy development. The threat beyond the Basin is worldwide concerning global warming and the very real danger that poses for future generations. Not only is fracking a practice that is a direct threat to local ecosystems and human health, it also must be clear that we need to stop burning fossil fuels and move to a more sustainable way of life. For reasons both local and global, I urge you to completely ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin.

Climate changed. We see the evidence of it everywhere. The only hope we have now is to speed the transition to clean, renewable, sustainable energy. If we don't, the impacts will not be limited to our water resources, but will endanger every aspect of our lives and very our survival. The DRBC must not allow any practices that enable more fossil fuel extraction anywhere. Protecting the water resources of the basin with a full fracking ban protects much more.

When a site is developed for gas well development, the change is dramatic, essentially transforming the land to an industrial landscape. The result is destruction of acres of vegetation (8.8 acres per well pad in 2011 with 30 acres of forest impacts due to edge effects, more than double that is the trend today), soil compaction and destruction of the natural land contours, alterations to watershed drainage patterns, and hydrologically connected systems such as wetlands and vernal pools. Habitats and complex ecosystems are disrupted or lost. 85% of the Upper Delaware where the Marcellus Shale is located is forested. Forest destruction and fragmentation in turn destroys the ability of the forest

ecosystem to capture, clean, and infiltrate precipitation, removes the trees that sequester carbon, reduces biodiversity, encourages invasive species, and destroys vital habitat.

The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking's authors cite a 2017 study which found that "fracking wastewater discharged into rivers and streams through treatment plants created dozens of brominated and iodinated disinfection byproducts that are particularly toxic and "raise concerns regarding human health" (pg 18).

With kind regards, Rachel Bacon

Sincerely,

Rachel Bacon