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DRBC

To whom it may concern:

**Issue:**

One of the chemicals that appears to be in use in the process of fracking is benzene.

**Details:**

Benzene is one of the most toxic chemicals we know of. It ranks very high in toxicity, along with Plutonium and Mercury. According to the EPA, <https://safewater.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/211403568-4-What-are-EPA-s-drinking-water-regulations-for-benzene-> the maximum allowable level for benzene in drinking water is 5 parts per billion (5 ppb). To put that in perspective 1 drop of benzene in a gallon of water would make that gallon 22,500 times more toxic than the EPA allows. Ten drops of benzene in the town pool would make it a toxic waste site. As you can imagine, dumping fracking waste, high in benzene, would not take much to turn the Delaware River into a toxic waste site.

The industry claims that chemicals make up only about 1% of the fracking fluid (let's assume that to be true). This equates to 1 part per hundred (1/100) of the volume used in the fracking process. However, benzene is toxic at the rate of 1 part per 200 million (1/200,000,000). In other words, if the 1% were benzene, it would be TWENTY MILLION TIMES MORE TOXIC THAN THE EPA ALLOWS.

**Recommendation:**

Until the gas companies refrain from using toxic substances, the DRBC must prevent the discharge of toxic chemicals into the Delaware River.

Sincerely,

