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Dear Commissioners,

I have been following for many years now the tragedy of the natural gas invasion of Central Appalachia of fracking wells, pipelines, and processing facilities. All this activity is literally digging ourselves a hole back into the past. We as a nation MUST move forward immediately to bold energy efficiency measures, and incorporating clean energy sources into our society. And, by the way, natural gas is NOT a clean energy source.

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.

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.

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).

As you consider your options, I urge you to keep in mind today's children and the future they will face if we continue on a path into the past, dominated by fossil fuels. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cat McCue