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DRBC

To whom it may concern:

Issue:

Water is more precious than gas.

Details:

Twenty years ago, no one had heard of selling bottled water. It was anathema to everyone I spoke with to pay for water. Eventually people got used to paying for water and then demanded fresh, clean water. They realized that the water sources for many of the U.S. municipal supplies were not as pure as people demanded. Years of pollution turned our nation's water into fowl smelling, fowl tasting water, or at least not pure. Over the years the price of water has risen by several hundred percent.

At my local food store, I regularly see gallons of water selling for over \$1 per gallon. Quarts of water at convenience stores can often cost over \$1.50. Bottled water at sporting events have often topped \$2.00 per liter. At a restaurant, I paid \$4.00 for small bottle. During a recent trip to Chicago, in the Hotel W, a quart of water was selling for \$8.00.

Therefore, in some places, the retail price of water has been as much as \$32 per gallon — and to think that not that long ago no one in his right mind would pay 5 cents for water.

The dSGEIS, 6.1.1.7, states a “peak annual fresh water usage for high-volume hydraulic fracturing of 9 billion gallons.” At \$32 per gallon, this represents \$288 billion of water. Even if money were the sole criterion, clean water is worth more than the gas.

If gas drilling waste comes to the Delaware River Watershed a number of industries and resources will be affected: organic farming will decline or cease, real estate (declining property values), industrialization of the landscape, health problems of the people, and contaminated food.

Recommendation:

Compare the cost of pure water at \$32/gallon to the minuscule benefit of allowing the gas industry pollute it.

Sincerely,

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