Alice Zinnes

It is absolutely irresponsible for the DRBC to allow any wastewater produced from fracking operations to enter the Delaware River Basin. Regulating with 100% insurance that no accident or illegal dumping will occur is virtually impossible. Just look at what has happened in Pittsburgh, where between October, 2008 2010 there were multiple "bottle water alerts" (urging but not requiring residents to buy and drink bottled water instead of their own tap water). Unfortunately - but perhaps not surprisingly, given the costs and political pressures - the water in Pittsburgh has not been adequately tested since these alerts. Very possibly Pittsburgh's water is still unhealthy to drink. And the cause of Pittsburgh's water problems? Via POTWs (privately owned treatment works) frack fluids had been disposed into the Monongahela River, the source of Pittsburgh's drinking water.

http://www.propublica.org/article/wastewater-from-gas-drilling-boom-may-threaten-monongahela-river). With the Delaware River providing drinking water for 15-17 million people, including in New York City and Philadelphia, it is unconscionable that the DRBC would allow any form of produced water from fracking operations to be brought in and treated within the DRB.

Even if the DRBC believes its regulations regarding wastewater are strong, once this produced water is allowed in the Basin a Pandora's Box will be opened where financial incentives inevitably will lead to illegal disposal of these very toxic fluids. See

http://williamahuston.blogspot.com/2010/12/more-illegal-dumping-of-frack-fluids.html and http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20111201/NEWS01/112010437/

The stakes are too high. Any local economic benefit of opening a frack wastewater treatment facility is by far overshadowed by the tremendous risk to the health of the DRB, and to all of us who depend on its water for our lives. Allowing any produced water from fracking operations to enter the Delaware River Basin must be stopped.