

Faith Zerbe:

Hi, the last name is Zerbe, Z-E-R-B as in boy, E as in Edward. First, I just wanted to verify that I have at least five people who just commented that the operator is requesting a confirmation number when they call in. I think some of them have called back because I understand that they are, they are, one of them I heard just presented, but I did just want to verify that I think you are confusing people with a confirmation number. So, you might want to do an announcement. I think there are three people now that have just texted me that they are not getting through to comment.

I wanted to just verify something, too, related to what I was hearing on the science. I am a scientist. I do a lot of water quality monitoring as part of my profession. I spend a lot of time up in the Upper Delaware River Basin. We have about 300 volunteer monitors collect data in tributary streams that were initially threatened by hydraulic fracturing in the _____ [00:49:35] shale region, mostly _____ [00:49:36] County, some places in Pike as well, and of course over in New York, which of course has a ban now.

So, I support a complete ban on fracking and again that's because of the science. When folks like Mr. Shepstone talks about SRBC, what we have to remember is that that build out for the DEP is at about I believe ten percent of fracking. Anybody who does water science and stream science understands that there is a little bit of resiliency at the beginning of a development of a watershed. But if we have complete build out, there will be certainly harm. Those harms will go against special protection waters.

Down in the tidal area, we have issues of endangered species like the Atlantic sturgeon. So certainly, as others have presented, if we have shale gas and flowback water coming into the tidal section, we don't need it. You know we have cleaned up that part of the river, dissolved oxygen levels are much better than they were in the past. There is no need to bring in radioactive flowback wastewater.

We have over 685 peer reviewed papers that show the human health harms, air, and water health harm. So again, there is absolutely no reason why DRBC should not be instituting the precautionary principle.

The other thing I just wanted to point out with the DEP's and spokes for raising SRBC is that DEP has determined there are least 301 cases of private water well contamination caused by oil and gas operations in the commonwealth. They have had over 4,400 water complaints. This was between 2004 and 2016. So again, this idea that we can frack in the Susquehanna and everything is fine is completely falseness.

So, I urge DRBC to do the right thing, to have a strong and complete ban on fracking, flowback, wastewater import, and no fresh water exports to extract. Thanks very much for your time.