

1 be Greg Swartz and Steven Swartz.

2 Okay.

3 Mr. O'Malley, when
4 you're ready, please.

5 MR. O'MALLEY:

6 My name is Doug
7 O'Malley. I'm the director of
8 Environment New Jersey. We represent
9 more than 20,000 paying citizens
10 across the great State of New Jersey
11 as well as 16,000 activists. And
12 fracking is clearly the largest threat
13 to our drinking water in the Delaware
14 River Watershed.

15 Seventeen (17) million
16 people depend upon the drinking water
17 from this watershed. And the DRBC was
18 created more than 50 years ago in 1961
19 to deal exactly with these issues, to
20 ensure equal protection for our
21 watershed, not to promote economic
22 development. DRBC's mission is to
23 ensure that we have clean drinking
24 water not just for this year and this
25 decade, but for generations, not to

1 serve as some de facto economic
2 development agency.

3 And it is clear from
4 these regulations the DRBC obviously
5 gets it on working to move to ban
6 fracking, but there needs to be an
7 absolute ban of fracking wastewater as
8 well as ensure that there are no water
9 withdrawals for the use of the
10 fracking industry.

11 And the reason why this
12 is so critical to move forward, is in
13 the DRBC earlier this decade moved to
14 open up the watershed to fracking and
15 that was blocked because of massive
16 public outcry. Over the course of the
17 last seven years through 2011 until
18 now, the science has become more clear
19 on the dangers of fracking and
20 fracking wastewater.

21 And seven years later,
22 New York State has moved to ban
23 fracking because of the absolute
24 public health risk that the fracking
25 represents. It also should be noted

1 that Pennsylvania is a cautionary tale
2 for this watershed because between
3 2008 and 2016, Pennsylvania fracking
4 companies together committed more than
5 4,351 violations.

6 That's more than a
7 violation a day. This is an industry
8 that's running rampant and running
9 rampant over environmental laws,
10 because just 17 percent of the
11 violations that ended up with a fine.

12 So this is why we need
13 DRBC to act because Pennsylvania DEP
14 is clearly not doing their job. And
15 there's been 300 cases of
16 contamination due to drilling of
17 drinking water in --- across
18 Pennsylvania. And we've seen some of
19 the largest petrochemical and oil and
20 gas industries from Exxon Mobile and
21 Shell and Cabot and Chesapeake.

22 We need to hold them
23 accountable, and if Pennsylvania DEP
24 is not going to act, this is why we
25 need the DRBC to act. We should note,

1 too, that the research has gotten not
2 only stronger, but it's showed drinking
3 water contamination in Bradford County
4 according to a peer reviewed research
5 study from National Academy of
6 Sciences issued three years ago.

7 We've also seen studies
8 on the impact of fracking wastewater.
9 But, again, don't take my word for it.
10 Listen to Pennsylvania Auditor General
11 Eugene DePasquale, who said that the
12 Pennsylvania DEP had failed to
13 adequately regulate the fracking waste
14 --- fracking industry.

15 And specifically, they
16 failed to restore drinking water
17 supplies. We do not want to wait
18 until our drinking water is
19 contaminated. And we have seen all
20 the way across Pennsylvania into
21 Allegheny River Watershed the impacts
22 of fracking wastewater. That's why we
23 need DRBC to act, to ban fracking and
24 fracking wastewater. Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER: