

Benjamin Luccaro

To DRBC,

I am writing as a concerned resident of the Delaware Valley Region to express my opinion that the DRBC should not lift the moratorium on gas drilling, hydraulic fracturing, water withdrawals for and wastewater treatment and discharges from fracking throughout the entire Delaware River Basin. Furthermore, I strongly implore, and as an environmental scientist advise, the DRBC not just to extend the moratorium currently in place, but also to move towards a permanent ban on fracking and it's related activities within the Delaware River Basin.

Based on my understanding of soil science, hydrology, and ecology, I agree with the determinations of the states of New York and Maryland to ban high volume hydraulic fracturing based on the likelihood that adverse health outcomes and environmental impacts from fracking can not be prevented. There will be spills, there will be leaks, there will be accidents. Hydraulic fracturing benefits a tiny fraction of the 15-17 million people living within the Delaware Basin Region. On the other hand, the health risks, personal property loss and destruction due to eminent domain, and ecological degradation brought about by hydraulic fracturing activities will be inflicted on the vast majority of residents.

In addition to being an environmental scientist I have also been a lifelong resident of the New Hope-Solebury area in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. My family have always run businesses in the New Hope and Solebury area. My parents first business was a bike and canoe rental business in New Hope, and we currently operate a bed and breakfast located on the Delaware River in Lumberville, PA. Based on my experience living in this area I can truly testify to just how much the Delaware River is the lifeblood of people living in this region.

Congress recognized how vitally significant the Delaware River was when they designated it as a national Wild and Scenic River. Hydraulic fracturing activities within the Delaware River Basin completely jeopardize the responsibility to maintain the rivers outstanding features, irreplaceable resources, exceptional water quality and scenic and recreational value.

Allowing hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River watershed would also run contrary to the DRBC's own Special Water Regulations that prevent all of the rivers non-tidal waters from being diminished in quality.

This is a critical decision you are tasked with. Lifting the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing activities within the Delaware River Basin will surely lead to irreversible consequences both in the short term and long term. The importance of protecting the Delaware River for present and future generations is far to vital to subject the River and it's tributaries to the pressures of hydraulic fracturing.

Please say no to hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River Basin, and protect the Delaware and it's tributaries for now and forever.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Ben Luccaro