

## Thomas Simonet

I own mineral rights to a few acres in the Bakken play in North Dakota. My siblings, cousins and I will tell you that fracking is NOT a boon to landowners. After each of us received initial payments of about \$3,000 several years ago, none of us has seen another dime - even though we have confirmed that our land is producing, handsomely. My nephew, a lawyer outside of North Dakota, has investigated and concluded that documenting the trail of evidence necessary and securing local legal representation would not be worth it. Who knows how many times our rights have been traded since! Once there is a wellhead, various companies (they swap these things like baseball cards) can suck out everyone's oil within a mile radius.

In other words, it is a myth that fracking benefits ordinary citizens.

Worse, it can (and probably does more often than we know) damage humans and animals.

With my students, I have visited Dimock, Pa., in Susquehanna County. If terrorists had done to citizens what the fracking companies had done by the time I observed the area, the federal government would have started another war somewhere. Poisoned water. Methane-filled air. Horses and dogs with hair falling out. Broken roads. Shattered hopes. Hills as green as Ireland's rendered into industrial wastelands. A few good-paying jobs, yes, but almost entirely for workers from Oklahoma and Texas. And there is no help from state or local government to fight these grievous wrongs.

Do not let any of this - any - occur in the Delaware watershed. No fracking. No toxin "disposal." (How can you "dispose" of something that has been rendered permanently carcinogenic?) No export of our wonderful blue water. No pipelines.

The third personal experience I want to share is a marvelous 100-mile Delaware canoe trip I had decades ago. Over three days my son and I paddled 100 miles from Dingmans Ferry, Pa., to the end of our street in Yardley, Pa. We will never stop appreciating the blessing of this near-wilderness in our midst.

If the DRBC does not stop fracking entirely, why does the commission even exist?