

BOB HOWARD

Dear Comments,

I am writing today to voice my strong opposition to the Delaware River Basin Commission 's (DRBC 's) proposed rules to severely restrict---and therefore effectively ban---hydraulic fracturing ("fracking ") and horizontal drilling within the basin.

The draft proposal seems wholly unreasonable, without basis in evidence or the strong safety record of regional energy development. Public energy policies need to be based on sound science and a practical risk-benefit analysis, not politics and alarmism from activists who want to stop the use of traditional energy resources.

Hydraulic fracturing has taken place for decades and improvements in technology, along with horizontal drilling, has driven an unprecedented energy revolution in our nation. America is no longer heavily dependent on foreign energy sources, thanks in large part to hydraulic fracturing.

The DRBC 's proposed new rules would take our region and nation in the wrong direction. The rules would limit energy development in the region, potentially raising costs for households and businesses. The resurgence in regional manufacturing---supported by affordable energy---could be impacted if other regulatory and state agencies limit or restrict affordable natural gas development.

I strongly urge the Commission to rethink, withdraw, and revise its new energy development rules. Tight oversight and strict regulations of energy development are appropriate. Overreaching, unjustified restrictions are not. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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