

Rev David Reppert

Fracking has contaminated water sources wherever it has been permitted. At the same time, perversely, Sunoco and other companies are given eminent domain power - supposedly because what they're doing is in the public interest! <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/> Clearly, the only interests benefiting from fracking are Sunoco and related firms. The people are losing their land, losing drinkable water, losing the beauty of the natural environment.

The millions of people who rely on the Delaware River for their drinking water enjoy some of the cleanest water in the East. Jeopardizing this water by allowing wastewater to be imported, stored, or transported into the Basin is foolish and irresponsible. The DRBC itself said, "The disposal of produced water poses a significant risk to the water resources of the basin if the wastewater is not properly managed." Allowing for storage and importation poses similar risks to disposal.

The entire nontidal Delaware River is protected by the Delaware River Basin Commission's Special Protection Waters regulations that do not allow water quality to be degraded. We are dependent on that protection to keep our water safe. Fracking and the discharge of wastewater produced by fracking will degrade the water quality of the river as pollutants are released. Toxic, hazardous and radioactive materials will build up over time in the water, sediments, and aquatic life and spills, leaks, and catastrophic events will add pollution, degrading water quality, habitats, and downstream water supplies.

As I mentioned previously, Sunoco and related firms are allowed windfall profits while masquerading as acting in the public interest in order to use eminent domain power. In addition, the natural gas and oil industry has received unprecedented exemptions from our nation's most important environmental and public health laws, including portions of: Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (the Superfund Law); and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. These exemptions allow pollution to occur through loopholes and reduce the controls of how hazardous materials from fracking must be disposed of. This exposes the Delaware River Watershed to adverse impacts that would degrade water quality and contaminate water supplies of up to 17 million people.

I strongly hope and pray that you will ban fracking throughout the Delaware River Basin. Thank you for your consideration.