

The job of the DRBC is to address water needs, not prohibit them. They address the water needs for “power generation” and “industrial activity” as a part of their mission, recognizing these needs and balancing them with other needs through reasonable standards. How can they prohibit a water need by irrationally pandering to the special political interests of anti fossil fuel zealots? Providing water for natural gas fueled electrical power serves to reduce carbon and other emissions through substitution for coal and oil fuels, which has saved hundreds of New York City lives that would have otherwise been lost to air pollution. Special Protection Waters cannot be used as an excuse to ban hydraulic fracturing. That designation is covered by the Clean Water Act for waters in Pennsylvania that are considered Exceptional Value or High Quality. Gas companies are already working successfully in areas of the Susquehanna River Basin that have high or exceptional quality water with “no discernible impacts on the quality of water resources.” Even in Exceptional Value areas, they are able to meet non-degradation standards. The responsibility for meeting those standards is already incorporated in the Clean Water Act . There is no justification to ban natural gas extraction when the standards are already being met with existing regulations of the DRBC itself.