

1 drilling of wells or the  
2 handling of and transportation  
3 of wastewater.

4 We cannot afford to make  
5 the same mistake in the  
6 Delaware River Basin. And I  
7 implore the Commission to enact  
8 a full ban on fracking,  
9 inclusive of fracking  
10 wastewater and water transfers  
11 in the Delaware River Basin.  
12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER:

14 Thank you. Katie Smith  
15 will be next. And then Maya  
16 Van Rossum. And then Alicia  
17 Dorsey. And Ms. Smith, if you  
18 would?

19 MS. SMITH:

20 Good afternoon. My name  
21 is Katie Smith. And I'm here  
22 on behalf of the Pineland  
23 Preservation Alliance, a  
24 nonprofit organization  
25 dedicated to the protection of

1 the New Jersey Pinelands. Part  
2 of which fall within the  
3 Delaware River watershed. I am  
4 here to support a complete ban  
5 on fracking, specifically to  
6 urge the Commission to ban  
7 export of water and the receipt  
8 of fracking wastewater in  
9 amendments.

10 These activities are  
11 currently banned under the  
12 moratorium and they should  
13 remain prohibited. The DRBC  
14 already discourages both the  
15 exportation of water and the  
16 importation of wastewater into  
17 the basin.

18 It is time for these  
19 sentiments to become policy.  
20 The Basin experience is not  
21 infrequent drought and water  
22 scarcity partially due to over  
23 allocation of water by state  
24 governments.

25 In New Jersey, 12 of 20

1 watershed management areas will  
2 experience water stress if  
3 current allocations are fully  
4 utilized.

5 Each fracked well  
6 requires approximately 4.5  
7 million gallons of water, and  
8 some require up to 20 million  
9 gallons of water, water which  
10 is permanently removed from the  
11 hydrologic cycle.

12 It's inappropriate for  
13 New Jersey and the rest of the  
14 Basin to allow diversions for  
15 fracking.

16 The New Jersey Pinelands  
17 is positioned in the Kirkwood  
18 Cohansey aquifer, an unconfined  
19 17-trillion gallon aquifer.  
20 Withdrawals from unconfined or  
21 surface aquifers not only  
22 impact future availability for  
23 human consumption, but create  
24 immediate impacts on wetlands  
25 and riparian ecosystems.

1                   Fortunately, there are  
2                   rules in place to protect the  
3                   Pinelands from water export,  
4                   but other areas do not have  
5                   these protections.

6                   DRBC currently requires  
7                   assessment of diversions based  
8                   on drought flow, which is  
9                   insufficient to properly  
10                  protect wetlands, riparian  
11                  systems, or the biotic  
12                  communities that rely on them.

13                  For these reasons, a  
14                  complete ban on export of water  
15                  is required. Further, the  
16                  Commission admits that the  
17                  basin waters have limited  
18                  assimilated capacity and  
19                  limited capacity to accept  
20                  conservative substances without  
21                  significant impact.

22                  Conservative pollutants  
23                  such as salt and metals are  
24                  frequently found in wastewater.  
25                  A significant risk when dealing

1 with produced water waste is  
2 the proprietary nature of the  
3 fracking fluid, which makes it  
4 incredibly difficult for the  
5 DRBC to properly regulate these  
6 effluents.

7 Additionally, the  
8 requirement that companies ---  
9 background levels prevents  
10 areas of contamination from  
11 recovering.

12 For these reasons and  
13 the many more that have been  
14 mentioned today, I ask you to  
15 put forth a ban on fracking,  
16 the export of fracking ---  
17 export of water for fracking to  
18 be dismissed. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER:

20 Maya Van Rossum would be  
21 next. And then Alicia Dorsey.  
22 And then Steve Bacher. Ms. Van  
23 Rossum, when you're ready,  
24 please.

25 MS. VAN ROSSUM: