

Erica Evans

Hi there,

I am a resident of Buckingham, PA. While am in agreement on the prohibition of fracking in the Delaware River Basin I urge the commission to reconsider the provisions that allow the fracking wastewater to be discharged in our watershed and that allow water to be removed from our watershed for use in fracking elsewhere. While there is ample information out there about the disastrous environmental effects of fracking wastewater and depletion of water resources, a little talked about fact is how these fracking related activities impact the local communities. Last summer I spent time in the Barnesville, Ohio area where the fracking industry is rampant. Quiet, bucolic towns (like our beautiful Bucks County) now deal with awful traffic coming through these tiny towns on two lane roads. These roadways are deteriorating very quickly, not meant for such industrial usage - similar to own our roadways and infrastructure in these parts of Pennsylvania. These trucks are hauling everything related to the fracking industry including wastewater.

A few years back some of the fracking companies trying to draw water for use in fracking nearly dried up Ohioans drinking water in Barnesville. When the town cut them off, the fracking company sued the town for breach of contract. The Delaware River is the backup source of water for South Jersey residents who get their water through NJ American Water. They are currently already depleting their first source of water in their area. What happens when these fracking companies deplete the backup source of clean drinking water for a huge population like those in the Greater Philadelphia/New Jersey area? It is absolutely possible.

<https://thinkprogress.org/a-600-million-fracking-company-just-sued-this-tiny-ohio-town-for-its-water-3a776651f59f/> and <http://www.barnesville-enterprise.com/news/20160817/local-impacts-of-fracking-discussed>

A friend of mine who lives in Barnesville, Ohio told me that when the fracking companies were coming in, the companies themselves told local police departments to hire more officers as the people the fracking companies bring in to work are rowdy and prone to causing disturbances. They're not even hiring anyone local.

Lots of people buy homes and choose to live in our area of Bucks County because of the quiet nature, peaceful settings, and clean environment. Allowing fracking wastewater to be discharged into our watershed and water to be drawn from our watershed which millions of people depend on is not only negligent but fails to see the detrimental effects on the community of taxpayers and people who have chosen to live in Bucks county. Do we want raucous out of town truckers disturbing the peace, trucks full of toxic wastewater careening down the roads our families ride bikes on, causing more roadway deterioration, traffic, and pollution? I would be very unhappy were this to be our home's new reality, and would consider leaving.

I don't think so. As if the dangerous environmental effects of all activities related to the fracking industry aren't enough, endangering drinking water for millions of people, and disturbing the peace, damaging the roadways is more than enough to say NO to fracking and ALL its related activities in the Delaware River watershed.

Thank you,
Erica Evans