

Paul Roden

I applaud your banning of hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin. But I object to removing of water for fracking elsewhere outside of the Delaware River Basin. We already have low river water levels. So low that the historic re-enactment of George Washington's Christmas crossing of the Delaware rehearsal had to be cancelled.

Fracking waste water contains over 600 chemicals including VOC's volatile organic compounds and radioactive salts. These VOC's can never be filtered, chemical removed or distilled or separated from the fracking flowback or waste water. This fracking waste has to be kept out of the biosphere and the watershed forever. This contaminated water is permanently destroyed. Municipal sewage and water treatment plants can not remove the VOC's or the radioactive salts. Already fracking waste haulers have dumped their waste by just driving around and opening the valves on their tanker trucks. They have also dumped the waste down storm sewers or even into municipal sewage planets. And they have obtained "beneficial use" permits from the PA DEP to sell or give the "well brine" to municipalities in New York State for snow and ice control on roads and for "dust control."

Pumping this fracking waste into deep well injection sites has led to earth quakes and the geology in PA, NY, NJ and DE is not suitable for this type of disposal. Well casings either from deep well injection, fracking or from spent wells all eventually become "compromised." Which means they leak.

Fracking chemicals, their name amounts and mixtures are proprietary. If they are so safe, why is that knowledge kept from the public, government environmental and public health officials? The VOC's alone are toxic, mutagenic, carcinogenic, and are endocrine disruptors.

The environmental, public health impact of fracking, withdrawal of water and disposal of fracking wastes should be permanently banned from the Delaware Watershed. Fracking is too dangerous, too expensive to be conducted safely, and totally unnecessary for our energy needs. Please do the right thing and pass a total ban on fracking, all water extractions for and disposal of fracking. New York State has passed a total ban so the rest of the Delaware Watershed should ban it as well. To do otherwise is insane and not consistent with the spirit and intent of the rules and regulations of the Compact. And finally, it is unconstitutional in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which says in its Constitution:

Article I, Section 27 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declares:
"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;"
Ban fracking now!