

I'm Steve Swartz. I'm a property owner in Wayne County in the Delaware Basin, and I live on the river. I support wholeheartedly the ban on fracking. I oppose the proposed regulation allowing the withdraw on exported water from the Delaware River Watershed to other watersheds for the purposes of natural gas exploration and production.

The use is depletive and consumptive. The water withdrawn leaves the system. The scale of the potential withdraws is enormous, export of water for the thousands of proposed wells, as well as existing wells, that require refracting in a nearby Susquehanna Watershed.

At 5-20 million dollars --- 5-20 million gallons per well would add up to billions of gallons of water depleted from the system. This is precedence then. Other than water withdraws permitted by DRBC for food and beverage processing, when the water leaves the system, there have been no other permitted exports for industrial use to my knowledge. All of water withdraws for current industrial

uses are for processes and activities within the basin. And the disposal of the waters not used is within the basin.

As the DRBC knows, mandated releases from the New York City reservoirs to meet downstream water needs may detrimentally affect river flows and temperatures critical to maintaining a healthy aquatic habitat. And this is a very important issue we have to know. If water is withdrawn from the west branch of the Delaware or the upper Delaware, there is no accounting system.

There is no way to account for the loss of water and no requirements for New York City to make up the flows in increased releases. There has been a speculative proposal on the table to build multiple pipelines along an old railroad right-of-way in northern Wayne County. One of the --- and DRBC staff knows about this.

One of the pipelines was proposed to transport water for distribution to drilling sites. If withdraws of billions of gallons of water for fracking were to be

allowed, a water extraction station will be built at the site at which this right-of-way crosses the west branch disrupting the river and riparians at that location.

And the loss of water from extractions at that point, would seriously harm the downstream aquatic habitat which includes critical native trout spotting areas and rare and endangered species of fresh water mussels.

The proposed application fees is capped at a withdraw of 75 to 80 gallons per month. But there seems to be no limit on the amount of water to be withdrawn. And the applicant doesn't have to be a drilling company, a new company could be set up whose sole purpose is to withdraw, transport and sell the water to out of basin industrial uses with no accountability.