

## Edward G. Maher, Jr.

Members of the Delaware River Basin Commission:

I am a property owner in Damascus Township, Wayne County, PA located immediately alongside the Main Stem of the Delaware River and immediately downhill from the now-dormant so-called Woodland Properties gas drilling site. I provided you with my initial comments years ago, stating my objections to any and all forms of gas drilling or hydraulic fracturing anywhere within the boundaries of the Delaware River Basin or in any location contiguous to or in the proximate vicinity of any waters or tributaries of the Delaware River that might threaten the water volume or the water quality of the Delaware River and its feeder creeks and tributaries.

In keeping with those remarks and with respect to the amended regulations now pending before you, I strongly object to any amendment that would permit the removal of water from the Delaware River or any of the water bodies in its watershed for the purpose of hydraulic fracturing or gas drilling. The watershed system has for years maintained a delicate balance of natural water flow and supervised flow management during the full range of water volume conditions - from floods to drought - that ought not be threatened or stressed by the unnecessary removal of any natural source of water supply in the Delaware River watershed that feeds and sustains the Delaware River, its aquatic marine abundance and its wonderful fishery.

Likewise, I strongly object to the trucking-in, delivery, discharge, storage or treatment of waste water and waste by-products into any area within the Delaware River Basin from hydraulic fracturing or gas drilling operations taking place outside of the boundaries of the Delaware River Basin. The water treatment facilities available have been demonstrated to be incapable of thoroughly or even adequately - no less safely - treating such effluents effectively. Aside from the nasty, acrid odors they emit diminishing localized air quality, any storage areas, evaporation pits and other sorts of disposal processes in use at this time increase the threat of contamination to groundwater and exacerbate the danger of overflow, runoff or accidental discharge into water bodies and tributaries that feed into the Delaware River and which could possibly effect the water quality of the region's aquifer water supply by seepage over time, threatening citizens' health and safety. The waste water and chemical waste by-products from hydraulic fracturing operations have no place within the protective boundaries of the Delaware River Basin.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility to manage and protect the Delaware River. Gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing - together with their water demand requirements and waste disposal needs - have no place within the boundaries of the Delaware River Basin or the watershed that are integral to the river system. As a citizen, a taxpayer and a vested property owner who cares for the Delaware River deeply, I strongly object to the proposed amendments to the regulations within the boundaries of the Delaware River Basin and its protected watershed. I urge you to carry out your charge to protect and care for the Delaware River with caution and due deliberation for its continued beauty and wellbeing.

Please reject any form of amendment to existing regulations that would permit taking any water out of the watershed or permit the discharge, storage or treatment of hydraulic fracturing waste water and accompanying chemical waste products within the boundaries of the Delaware River Basin and its protected watershed.