

Dear Delaware River Basin Commissioners (D.R.B.C.) and Mr. Steve Tambini,  
Executive Director:

We applaud you and support you 100% on your recent proposal to enact a permanent ban on and prohibition of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas (fracking) in the Delaware River Basin (D.R.B.).

But we also believe that there should be no water withdrawals (exportation) from the D.R.B. for fracking, because it is not right. The water which is used for fracking is forever contaminated with radioactivity and toxic chemicals and can never be made completely pure again by a wastewater treatment facility. In a world where there is a forever decreasing amount of pure clean, unspoiled, uncontaminated fresh water, that water in our D.R.B. should never be used for those purposes. We should ban and prohibit the powerful oil and natural gas industry from withdrawing water in the D.R.B. for fracking purposes. The D.R.B.C. should not just discourage diversion, transfer, or exportation of water from sources within the D.R.B. to support hydraulic fracturing outside of the D.R.B., but ban and prohibit this activity entirely in the D.R.B.

We should encourage renewable energy production, not fossil fuel energy production, with all of its destructive side effects.

Also, the storage and treatment of this toxic, radioactive, chemically-laden "frackwater" ("brine" or produced water and/or centralized waste treatment (C.W.T.) wastewater) should not be allowed to be stored and treated here in the D.R.B. There is too great of a risk for leaking of this toxic, radioactive material wastewater into our ground and surface waters; not to mention the potential spills of this hazardous material during its transport to areas within the D.R.B.

Please ban and prohibit any importation of produced water and C.W.T. wastewater from fracking into the D.R.B. entirely, and do not allow any new or existing wastewater treatment facilities to exist at all in the D.R.B. for the purpose of treating produced water and C.W.T. wastewater from natural gas operations. These facilities are unable to remove the radioactivity of these materials, plus some chemicals cannot be removed because some of these chemicals dissolve the filters at these treatment centers. It is simply too dangerous and too risky to allow these radioactive and polluted water contaminants (toxic chemicals) to get into ground and surface waters.

Regardless of how this waste is treated at these facilities, there still will be contaminants, pollution, and radioactivity in the effluents from these facilities. As it has been said by others who care, the solution to pollution should not be dilution!

The D.R.B. should not be turned into a sewer for the natural gas industry. Remember that the D.R.B. is the source of drinking water for 17 million people, many of them downstream from us.

We would really be interested to know if any member of the D.R.B.C. would be willing to state publicly that they would be willing to drink and allow their family members and friends to drink this so-called "treated" wastewater (effluents) after it has been treated by a C.W.T. wastewater facility; and discharged and consequently diluted by the waters of the Delaware River? We really do not think that any D.R.B.C. member would trust these so-called "treated" effluents, diluted with Delaware River water, to be safe for yourselves, your families, and your friends. Also, we should not compromise the health

and safety of those living downstream from us in the D.R.B. by harmful contaminants and radioactivity produced from natural gas operations.

Therefore, simply put, the D.R.B.C. should not allow any poisonous, radioactive chemicals or “brine” (effluents) to be discharged (even after so-called “proper treatment”) into the pristine waters of the Delaware River from the oil and natural gas industry operations.

There should be no importation of wastewater into the D.R.B., nor exportation of pristine water out of the D.R.B. for any natural gas projects. There should be no storage, treatment, disposal, or discharge of toxic wastewater within the D.R.B. associated with vertical or horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing for the production of natural gas. There should be no inter-basin transfer of water for and wastewater from, natural gas developments outside of the D.R.B.

The underground and above ground water resources of the D.R.B. should not be interfered with, impaired, or penetrated into by the natural gas industry.

Really, there is no way that importing wastewater from fracking into the D.R.B. and exporting water for fracking out of the D.R.B. could adhere to the requirements of the D.R.B.C.’s laws to protect its water resources. To ban fracking, but to then allow the dumping of fracking waste undoes the whole purpose of the ban in the first place, which is to protect the water within the D.R.B.

No one is safe from the harmful and dangerous impacts of drilling and fracking for gas in shale. Regardless of where one lives, we should not allow this oil and gas industry to advance in the D.R.B., nor support its proliferation elsewhere. We are condemning this generation and posterity to the deleterious and destructive ramifications and sequelae of these dirty oil and gas industries. In closing, we support the complete ban on hydraulic fracturing in the D.R.B., but oppose the proposal that our watershed be the repository for fracking wastewater. The D.R.B. definitely should not be the water source at all for any fracking that happens outside of our watershed.

Please do what is right! Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

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