

Carl Balis

This proposal is so outrageous that I hardly know where to start, and am almost at a loss for words. To even consider such a proposal is outrageous. It assaults one's sense of the most basic human decency and code of honor, because this proposal clearly has none at all.

It is impossible to take seriously a proposal to take millions upon millions (which over time would cascade to a sum of billions) of gallons of water from the Delaware River, fill that water with hundreds of poisonous chemicals in order to use it in the heavy industrial operation known as fracking, then "treat" it and render it "perfectly safe", and finally pump it back into the Delaware River. This is a policy conceived by madmen, by those with no conscience or soul, by those whose only focus in life is their own rapacious appetite for profits, the rest of the world be damned.

And more to the point, it's a policy proposed by the most vulgar of liars. May I say that I have chosen my characterization as "liars" very carefully.

The people telling us that it is "perfectly safe" are the same people who have refused to reveal what chemicals they use in their fracking operations. Back in 2005, when some Pennsylvania citizens demanded to know what chemicals were being pumped into their communities, the fracking companies went to the Bush administration, who then lobbied Congress to grant them an exemption freeing them from any requirement to release this information, on the grounds that this information was a "trade secret" that the public had no right to know. Really? No right? A trade secret? Excuse me while I convulse with laughter.

If that were not enough, they then prevailed upon the Pennsylvania legislature to pass a law, stating that if a private citizen investigated and discovered what chemicals were being used, that they were forbidden by that law to make this information public, upon penalty of prosecution. Forbidden by law!! So on top of the actual deed of pouring poisons into the environment and polluting our homes, these companies had the brash arrogance to deny Pennsylvania's citizens the right of free speech and free press in order to hide the harmful and highly dangerous nature of their activities. That can only be seen as the mentality of criminals. They tell us it's safe, but they refuse to divulge what chemicals they use, and threaten legal action against those who seek to find out. I am on firm ground when logically concluding that they are liars.

So, are we to believe these same people, people who have previously gone to such lengths to hide their actions when they tell us now that it is "perfectly safe" to pour the poisoned water they have "treated" back into the Delaware River? Certainly not!!!! You would sooner trust a snake!!! They are taking fresh, pure water out, and pouring poison back in. Who with even the common sense of a jar of mayonnaise would believe such claptrap? The answer is that no one would. Not a single solitary soul.

Nor should you who sit on the Delaware River Basin Commission. Not for an instant. Protect Pennsylvania's natural heritage and her citizens from this obvious onslaught. It is your sworn duty to do so. We need you.

One last thought. This is almost comical, but I will present it. Let's make the following proposal to the fracking companies. Since you assure us that the "treated" water is "perfectly safe", we will disconnect your homes and offices from the municipal water system, and we will construct special pipelines that would carry the "treated" water into your homes and offices. This will be the water

you and your families and employees will drink, use for your laundry, use for bathing, etc. Do you agree to this arrangement? I have to chuckle most heartily as I imagine their response. Priceless!!! Suddenly that water would not be so "perfectly safe", would it?

Thank you.