

Joseph Hinton

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Delaware River Basin Commission
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To whom it may concern:

I was born and raised in the city of New Castle, Delaware. One could throw a stone and hit the Delaware River from our home on South Street. When my two brothers and I were very young, circa 1950, my father used to take us down to Battery Park to swim. He was a WWII veteran struggling, like millions of other vets, to make a living, to raise a family, and to put the horrors of a world war in the rear view mirror. We had no money, so a pool was not an option and even any kind of membership to a pool was not within our reach. However, we were kids and we loved it just the way it was. To us Battery Park was Shangri-La, and we could never get enough of the river in the summer. Then one day he told us we could no longer swim at Battery Park. Naturally, we were disappointed and wanted to know why. I have no recollection of what if anything my dad told us, but years later we understood that it was because the river had become so polluted that swimming in that water would have seriously jeopardized our health.

In the ensuing years, good people, among them a real-deal environmentalist by the name of Russell W. Peterson, did what they could to reverse this terrible situation, struggling mightily against powerful business and financial interests who could not have cared less about the health and welfare of anyone or anything except themselves. Eventually these concerned citizens succeeded in ridding the Delaware River of much of this pollution. It did not become pristine, it is not now, and most likely never will be, but at least it is not the polluted morass that it was back when I was a child.

There has arisen once again a realistic threat to the viability of the Delaware River in the form of the possibility of fracking and its related activities including but not limited to the storing, processing and discharging into the Delaware River Watershed the toxic wastewater produced by fracking. These reckless activities, extremely detrimental to the safety and health of many Delawareans, have no doubt been proposed by the same breed of powerful, greedy miscreants who tried to destroy the river in my childhood. This new breed of pillar-of-the-community types, like their predecessors, also does not give a damn about the health and welfare of the good folks who live along or near the river as long as the long green keeps rolling in. With this in mind, I urge you to do what you can, whenever and wherever you can, to insure that fracking and anything and everything connected with this destructive activity is banned forever anywhere in or near the Delaware River. The continued well-being of millions of your constituents depends upon your recognizing this fracking business for what it is, an unnecessary and very dangerous activity.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Hinton