

of recourse is not sound policy. It acts as a barrier and limits technology advancement.

In closing, the industry continues to invest in technological advances and will prevent and eliminate discharges to the basin. Technology will be used during and management of water resources that will be in line with what the commission's goals are for the basin. That is, as we understand it, to conserve, protect, maintain, and improve the quality of the water basin. Again, thank you very much for this opportunity.

Operator: Thank you. We will go next to Joanne, sorry. We will go next to Joanne Kilgour. Your line is open. You have three minutes.

Joanne Kilgour: Good afternoon, thank you. My name is Joanne Kilgour and I am the director of the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, representing 3,300 members and more than 120,000 supporters across our commonwealth. First, I would like to join the other commenters in thanking the commissioners and staff of the DRBC for the opportunity to provide feedback on these draft regulations within the watershed.

On behalf of the Sierra Club members and supporters in Pennsylvania, I am joining this hearing this afternoon to testify in support of a complete ban on fracking in the Delaware River watershed including a ban on the storage, processing, and discharge of wastewater from fracking in the basin, and the export of water from the watershed for harmful fracking elsewhere in the region.

Communities across Pennsylvania have been dealing with the negative impacts from fracking and fracked gas infrastructure for years. While no community should have been subjected to these impacts in the first place, what we have learned from the damage caused by these activities serves as substantiation to justify a complete ban on fracking and fracking related activities in the Delaware watershed.

Examples of these impacts include contamination of water supplies, negative water quality impacts to streams, uncertainties surrounding exposure to chemicals in fracking fluid and wastewater, the composition of which is often not disclosed to the public, and the potential for radioactivity in waste disposal.

With respect to water supply contamination, there are clear indicators that fracking pollutes water even when the operations are regulated. If allowed in the Delaware River watershed, millions of people's water would be at risk. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has acknowledged more than 300 cases of private water well contamination caused by oil and gas operations in the commonwealth and over 4,400 water complaints related to oil and gas have been filed by the public.

Between 2004 and 2016, the EPA identified nearly 9,500 public complaints about environmental problems in Shell gas drilling areas. These impacts, again, while they should have never been experienced anywhere should be prevented from being experienced within the watershed.

In addition to private water supplies, fracking related operations have also resulted in changes to water quality in streams. For instance, a publication by the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found streams adjacent to gas wells are negatively impacted by run off and sedimentation, harming fish and wildlife, and causing streams to be eroded and destabilized. Beyond impacts from erosion, sedimentation, concerns remain regarding exposure to unknown chemicals or unknown quantities of chemicals in frack fluid and wastewater from fracking operations.

Drilling companies have withheld fracking chemical identities from the public as confidential--

Operator: It has been three minutes. Please conclude remarks.

Joanne Kilgour: Thank you. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment in support of a complete ban on fracking in the watershed.

Operator: Thank you. We will go next to Mark Leben. You have three minutes. Your line is open.

Mark Leben: All right, thank you. I agree with the previous speaker. The fracking industry is not concerned with the welfare of the environment. As a chemical engineer, I understand why because it saves them a lot of money. Anything that they put back, any treatment they do to the water after fracking is minimal and is not in the best interest of anyway that is going to be drinking the water or is being put on the farmlands.

What I do not understand is in the age of the Twenty-First Century, that we need to be continually looking at fossil fuel as our energy sources. We have much better sources that do not pollute. There is no real need for fracking, any more fracking. I am extremely concerned that the damage to our watershed and to the water that we use, that millions of people use. I would appreciate it if the commission would please ban all fracking and not allow the use of water and that they controlled to be used for fracking operations. I appreciate the opportunity to make my comments known and I thank you and please ban fracking. Thank you very much.

Operator: Thank you. We will go now to Wendy Robinson. Your line is open. You have three minutes.

Wendy Robinson: Thank you. Thanks for offering a creative way to testify for those of us unable to travel to the rather inconvenient locations provided for in person testimony.