

Richard Higginbotham

Dear Comments,

I am a resident of the region and made my living as an employee of the Department of Defense where I served on environmental regulatory bodies that addressed energy impacts. I fully endorse the energy industry's work and the benefits it brings to our nation. I also know firsthand that safety is this industry's number one priority. I'm convinced that they are committed to protecting the environment and public health of the communities where we live and work.

With this in mind, I write to express my strong opposition to the DRBC's proposal to effectively ban hydraulic fracturing. The proposed rule cannot be justified, given the overwhelming safety record of hydraulic fracturing. Numerous studies have shown that these practices are safe and do not pose an unreasonable risk to water supplies.

Safe natural gas development is at the heart of America's energy revolution. Our nation is now the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas---a development made possible through horizontal drilling.

In addition, the increased use of natural gas has helped lower air pollution and reduce carbon emissions. As part of the Commission's mission, you have the responsibility to integrate environmental and economic needs. The DRBC's rules should support responsible natural gas development, not create barriers.

Energy workers are part of the communities of the Delaware River Basin area. They deserve fair rule-making, not threats to their jobs.

I respectfully ask the DRBC to void their proposed rule and start over. Balanced regulations that enable the monitoring of energy operations make sense, but the proposed rule goes too far. I look forward to seeing the DRBC take a more reasonable approach.

Sincerely,
Richard Higginbotham
84 Cherokee Trl

Medford Lakes, NJ 08055-1602