

1           Ong?   Ms. Ong, when you're  
2           ready.   All right.   Thank you.

3                   MS. ONG:

4                   Good afternoon, Judge.  
5           My name is Kimberly Ong.   I'm  
6           an attorney at the Natural  
7           Resource Defense Council.   I'm  
8           here on behalf of myself and  
9           the over 70,000 NRDC members  
10          who live in Pennsylvania,  
11          Delaware, New York and New  
12          Jersey.

13                  Thank you for giving us  
14          a chance to speak today about  
15          this incredibly important part  
16          of the landscape.   And  
17          Commission Staff, thank you for  
18          helping draft a fracking ban on  
19          the river basin.

20                  I'd like to make three  
21          points.   First, NRDC strongly  
22          supports a ban of the Delaware  
23          River Basin.   Fracking can and  
24          has contaminated air and  
25          drinking water, ruined

1           landscapes, caused earthquakes,  
2           harms human health, and  
3           contributed to climate change.

4                   Over 600,000 jobs or  
5           more than \$12 billion in annual  
6           wages rely on a clean and  
7           protective river basin for  
8           survival. Factoring in  
9           ecosystem services, over \$16  
10          billion are in peril if the  
11          River Basin is opened for  
12          fracking.

13                   The potential value of  
14          the natural gas industry, a  
15          mere 3.3 billion dollars per  
16          year, pales in comparison at  
17          nearly a fifth of the economic  
18          value of a frack-free basin.

19                   Second of all, we  
20          strongly support a ban. The  
21          effectiveness of a ban is  
22          undermined if the wastewater,  
23          one of the most toxic aspects  
24          of the fracking process, can  
25          still be transported, treated,

1           and disposed of in the river  
2           basin. The fracking process  
3           yields wastewater containing  
4           over 1,000 contaminants that  
5           can cause significant harm to  
6           human health and the  
7           environment.

8                     Here's a partial list of  
9           the chemicals that are found in  
10          fracking wastewater. While  
11          some of these chemicals are  
12          benign, such as water and  
13          citric acid, many of these  
14          chemicals are toxic to humans  
15          and animals and are radioactive  
16          and corrosive. They can also  
17          imperil ecosystems by depleting  
18          oxygen or causing algorithms.

19                    And there is no safe way  
20          to handle, treat, and dispose  
21          of fracking wastewater. As  
22          we've seen just next door in  
23          Susquehanna County, even when  
24          there are strict regulations in  
25          place, where there's

1           wastewater, there are spills.  
2           And these spills pollute our  
3           water, destroy our habitats,  
4           and make people sick.

5                     Third, these regulations  
6           should not allow for the  
7           withdrawal of fracturing  
8           elsewhere. Unlike other water  
9           uses, almost none of fracking  
10          water can be returned to the  
11          basin after use, depriving  
12          every basin of the use of that  
13          water for more beneficial  
14          purposes like drinking,  
15          farming, and fishing.

16                    Thank you again for  
17          taking the time to hear us out  
18          today. The decision as to  
19          whether or not to permit  
20          fracking and fracking  
21          wastewater in the river basin  
22          is likely one of the most  
23          important decisions the  
24          Commission will make in the  
25          upcoming years.

1                   We ask that you do the  
2                   right thing and approve the  
3                   rule with changes. Make the  
4                   ban a full ban that bans  
5                   fracking, fracking wastewater,  
6                   and the withdrawal of water for  
7                   fracking purposes. Thank you.

8                   HEARING OFFICER:

9                   The next three speakers  
10                  --- I'm sorry. Is Nancy  
11                  Harkins here? No. Next three  
12                  speakers will be Jean-Marie  
13                  Donohue. And then Lena Smith.  
14                  And then Jean MacFarlane. Ms.  
15                  Donohue?

16                  MS. DONOHUE:

17                  My name is Jean-Marie  
18                  Donohue. I am with Water  
19                  Spirit. Water Spirit is the  
20                  spirituality empowerment  
21                  program that educates and  
22                  advocates on water issues. We  
23                  are sponsored by the Sisters of  
24                  St. Joseph for Peace, which is  
25                  a growing Catholic order of