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In 1961, before there was an EPA, the DRBC came into being. It's ambitious goal: to bring a fouled and dying Delaware River back to life. It proceeded to do just that. A partial list of accomplishments, many of them firsts in the nation, over the years, included:

- pioneering, comprehensive water quality standards, done nowhere else and, a year later, regulations for implementation again, done nowhere else in the u.s.
- instituted an administrative procedure to settle water disputes
- published the first recreational maps, thus helping to further facilitate a large recreational pastime and industry
- construction of reservoirs such as at Beltzville which help to stabilize streams and enhance quality
- adoption of rules, programs and regulations that pioneered water conservation
- the mapping of flood plains
- working towards the designation of parts of the river to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers federal program (which DRBC helped to draft), and later, designation of waters in the Lower Delaware as Significant Resource Waters, part of the Special Waters Protection Program...which, in 2008, was amended to include the entire 197 miles of the non tidal Delaware River
- stopped the destructive Tocks Island Dam project
- adopted regulations governing discharge of toxic pollutants from wastewater treatment plants
- implemented regulations to protect limited ground water resources in portions of Pennsylvania, especially in emergency situations
- undertook research and created policies and rules regarding stabilization of flow in order to safeguard aquatic ecosystems throughout the Basin, an emphasis done rarely in the U.S. at the time
- wrote the rules to establish pollutant minimization standards and plan requirements concerning discharges of PCB's into the Basin

And there is more, but i don't have the time to fully outline and applaud the very long and amazing history of this Commission and its work to clean and preserve a River, all its tributaries, its surrounding lands and the incredible and vibrant habitats both on land and in the waters. Suffice it to say that without this Commission, this River would remain the polluted dumping ground of garbage and dangerous toxins. I invite anyone to go onto the website of the DRBC to look at the history for themselves.

so this question i have, and it is the question of all people here today and for those of like mind who are not present, becomes even more incredulous in light of this history:

How can this Commission even begin to think about doing an about face on its own mission, its own rules, its own goals and allow activities related to the highly destructive hydrofracturing process to occur anywhere even remotely close to the lands and waters that you pulled from the depths of pollution, cancer and death? How do you explain this??

This was my speech made at the afternoon session at Waymart, Pennsylvania on behalf of Bucks Environmental Action and Bucks County Sierra Club.