

Beth

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Dear Commissioners,

Totally opposed to Fracking

The regulations proposed by the DRBC are setting up an unsustainable cycle of sending clean water out of the basin and bringing highly contaminated water into the basin. If we are to successfully combat climate change, we must stop our unsustainable practices and avoid implementing new ones.

When a site is developed for gas well development, the change is dramatic, essentially transforming the land to an industrial landscape. The result is destruction of acres of vegetation (8.8 acres per well pad in 2011 with 30 acres of forest impacts due to edge effects, more than double that is the trend today), soil compaction and destruction of the natural land contours, alterations to watershed drainage patterns, and hydrologically connected systems such as wetlands and vernal pools. Habitats and complex ecosystems are disrupted or lost. 85% of the Upper Delaware where the Marcellus Shale is located is forested. Forest destruction and fragmentation in turn destroys the ability of the forest ecosystem to capture, clean, and infiltrate precipitation, removes the trees that sequester carbon, reduces biodiversity, encourages invasive species, and destroys vital habitat.

From the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th edition, "We close with an observation by Maryland physician Judy Stone, MD, whose recent essay in Forbes speaks for all who have contributed to this Compendium: Fracking profits go to private industry but the public—families and communities—bear the costs of the many health complications from the drilling. There is growing evidence of a variety of health problems being associated with fracking. Common sense dictates that drinking and breathing cancer-causing agents will take their toll. The correlation is too strong to ignore, especially when we have other, cleaner energy options. For our safety and that of future generations, we should not allow the new administration to sell off public lands, nor allow drilling on our land, and should ban fracking completely."

Sincerely,

Beth Kerr