

## Colleen Wysser - Martin

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Commissioners are planning to consider regulations that would allow fracking waste to be imported and processed in the basin and water to be extracted for fracking up someone else's community.

The entire nontidal Delaware River is protected by the Delaware River Basin Commission's Special Protection Waters regulations that do not allow water quality to be degraded. We are dependent on that protection to keep our water safe. Fracking and the discharge of wastewater produced by fracking will degrade the water quality of the river as pollutants are released. Toxic, hazardous and radioactive materials will build up over time in the water, sediments, and aquatic life and spills, leaks, and catastrophic events will add pollution, degrading water quality, habitats, and downstream water supplies.

The natural gas and oil industry has received unprecedented exemptions from our nation's most important environmental and public health laws, including portions of: Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (the Superfund Law); and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. These exemptions allow pollution to occur through loopholes and reduce the controls of how hazardous materials from fracking must be disposed of. This exposes the Delaware River Watershed to adverse impacts that would degrade water quality and contaminate water supplies of up to 17 million people.

Fracking fluids can migrate from the fracked well to aquifers, contaminating water. This would harm the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed because people draw well water from aquifers and because the river is dependent on high quality groundwater to supply healthy base flow to its streams that feed downstream water supplies. "The process of injecting fluids into and fracturing the shale causes the potential pollution problem." Contaminated fluids from the fracking process can move from the deep shale to water resources through various pathways including fractures and natural vertical flow, in thousands of years or in less than ten years, polluting groundwater.

A full fracking ban in the Basin which includes waste processing and water extraction is the only right decision!