

# Bucks Environmental Action; Bucks County Sierra Club

Today i wish to speak about water.

We seem to take water for granted, here in the wet northeast of the country. But i have walked where there is no water, places where water can kill you if there is a sudden storm. where suddenly it disappears into the ground, only to reappear a short distance away. Where water looks pristine but is dangerous to drink because it is befouled. And where it glows strange and unnatural colors because of acid leaching coming from long abandoned mines where companies were allowed to walk away from their responsibilities....and our government let them. Just let them walk.

Water is magical because Water is Life.

You are the Protectors of Water and in being so, you are the Protectors of the lands, the plants, the trees, and the beings both in water and nearby the waters of this amazing, special, free flowing Delaware River and all of the tributaries that feed it.

Therefore, how can there even be a hint of a proposal to abandon this significant role of Protector and open up this intricate system that so mimics the arteries, veins and capillaries of our own bodies, to the possibility of being the catch all of polluted, contaminated fracked water? Water that would then be filled with horrible chemicals whose names are long and frightening like trihalomethane; with radionuclides such as uranium, radium and radon; and bromides that have lain buried deep in the earth, flushed out with the contaminated water after being cracked wide open and so become introduced to an environment that it will surely kill.....

How can this Commission even consider allowing such a toxic brew to come close when most of the components of this ugly water are unknown..... when we don't even know their names? and how does one figure it can be treated safely and completely when what it even is, EXACTLY... is a secret? Why are you willing to take this risk? YOU stand between an industry devoted to profits, unimpeded growth and shareholder happiness..... and ALL OF US. Companies come and go, but the Water remains....and so does our need of it because without it, we... all... die.

This industry has not proven itself to be forthcoming, transparent, responsible, careful. this industry has violated the law, has overlooked and tried to hide leakages, problems, discharges, flaws, lies. It has thumbed its nose at regulations, has run roughshod over individual and community rights, and has paid off and overrun, in many fashions, representatives who are in similar positions of being the protectors of people and communities.

and now, shall we add protectors of entire ecosystems?? Shall this Commission give up the grand vision created over 56 years ago, the grand purpose, the moral, legal, scientific and social high ground and cave in to the pressures of an industry that wants something from you, from all of us, and is used to getting its way....one way or the other?

Or will you be true to your heritage of being the first and most powerful of the Commissions of this nature, and stand against this modern day Goliath and what it wants....because what it wants is to do what it pleases with our Water, our Lands, our Lives??

Who do you stand for?? Who do you stand with?? What do you want your legacy to be??

This was the second speech i gave, although being only allowed two minutes, i had to truncate....at the afternoon session in Philadelphia.