

Arthur Lyle

Dear Comments,

I write as a concerned American to say that I strongly oppose the DRBC 's proposed rule to severely limit and thereby effectively ban hydraulic fracturing within your jurisdiction. It is a proven technology for exploring for natural gas resources and has led to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions throughout the United States through the additional natural gas resources now available for use in power generation as an alternative to coal. Limiting access to this resource will drive a lingering dependence on the use of coal as a primary fuel source significantly into the future. This is counter to clean air initiatives that are still being pursued throughout the country.

Natural gas serves the nation by powering our economy and helping keep energy affordable for millions of Americans. The men and women who work to develop those resources are focused on safety and work hard every day to ensure that our communities, work sites, and the environment are not put at risk. They live and work in the areas where drilling has and continues to occur. There are well established processes used to limit environmental impacts at the surface and below the surface when exploring for natural gas.

Government data and scientific research make it clear that this commitment to safety is paying off. Hydraulic fracturing has been proven to be a safe technology and does not contaminate drinking water resources. Established guidelines and rules by states in which natural gas exploration uses this technique help to ensure that this technique continues to be used in a safe manner. Given this information, your proposed rule goes too far. Please do not give credence to the unsupported and misleading information promoted by extreme anti-energy groups.

The risks of allowing energy development in the DRBC region are minimal when performed according to established state and federal guidelines, but the benefits are certain. Domestic energy development, especially in regards to natural gas, is critical to our nation 's strength---to our economy, to job creation, and to our security. Greenhouse gas emissions from power plants are vastly reduced with abundant natural gas being available instead of reliance on coal supplies. Citizens who use natural gas for heating or other needs have seen direct impacts due to significant savings over the last several years as well.

The DRBC 's proposed rule would take our nation in the wrong direction. Recognizing the strong safety record of energy development, the federal government has rightly begun to limit unnecessary regulations. The DBRC should go in the same direction.

I respectfully ask the Commission to withdraw its new draft regulation and replace it with rules to support, not restrict, American energy development in a continued safe and thoughtful manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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