

1 MR. DIACONT:

2 Thank you. My name's
3 Blayne Diacont. I grew up in Lehigh
4 Valley. I'm an outdoorsman. I also
5 kayak the Delaware. I studied geology
6 in college. I worked as a
7 hydrogeologist, private consulting for
8 over ten years providing cleanup to
9 groundwater contaminations and
10 developing high capacity water supply
11 wells for drinking water purposes.

12 I then worked for the
13 SRBC for six years where I co-authored
14 the aquifer testing guidance document,
15 managed surface water withdrawals in
16 the natural gas industry.

17 HEARING OFFICER:

18 If you could keep your
19 voice up and use the microphone,
20 please?

21 MR. DIACONT:

22 For the last seven and a
23 half years, I worked as a water
24 resource manager and operator for the
25 natural gas industry. I'm speaking

1 today as a scientist, as a worker for
2 the natural gas industry. I believe in
3 science and what we do.

4 We have the ability to
5 successfully produced clean burning
6 natural gas, and also being great
7 stewards to the environment. In my
8 company, my division, we sourced all
9 the water for the least five years in
10 the main branch of the Susquehanna
11 River. We recycle 100 percent of our
12 water. We drastically reduced our
13 fresh water by utilizing produced water
14 at a rate of 60 percent of our total
15 volume. The document produced by the
16 DRBC states a lot of concern regarding
17 water demand and usage. I'm in a
18 unique position to state I strongly
19 believe these concerns are
20 overemphasized and misrepresented, and
21 that each one of them can be addressed
22 in the appropriate regulation.

23 You only need to look at
24 your adjacent basin and sister agency
25 for guidance in this regard. Their

1 existing regulations in the basin are
2 utilizing both protection policies in
3 determining what water stream is
4 sufficient to support withdrawals,
5 condition approval to limit rates,
6 performing impact analysis, and
7 performing studies can all be done at
8 your agency as they have successfully
9 done so at SRBC.

10 Utilization of the 2016
11 SRBC assessment report as a footnote to
12 document the basin is at best
13 troublesome. The SRBC document states
14 things like to date the Commission
15 monitoring programs have not detected
16 discernible impacts to the quality of
17 the basin's water resources as a result
18 of natural gas development. This
19 discrepancy is either a lack of
20 understanding of regulatory tools
21 available and used by the SRBC and
22 other agencies, or a lack of effort to
23 coordinate with those agencies.

24 Although I can speak at
25 length of misconceptions presented in

1 the 22-page document, today, I'd also
2 like to just speak on two specific
3 points. Number one, the DRBC stated
4 that 70 percent of their watershed is
5 underlain by the Marcellus and Utica.
6 This is an unrealistic representation
7 when considering what part of the basin
8 is actually underlain by developed
9 natural gas.

10 I believe that looking at
11 a map briefly, it's more like ten
12 percent. The report also attempts to
13 equate the fact that our industry
14 continues to achieve longer laterals
15 for horizontal wells and that there is
16 more water required for the well. In
17 the context of the report, it implies
18 that it's a bad thing. Instead, longer
19 wells should see some positive
20 technological advances because longer
21 laterals can ---.

22 HEARING OFFICER:

23 You got 15 more seconds,
24 sir, because of the interruption. You
25 have 15 more seconds.

1 MR. DIACONT:

2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER:

4 If you make perhaps, the
5 second point.

6 MR. DIACONT:

7 Yeah. Your attempt to
8 equate the fact that our industry
9 produced longer laterals for horizontal
10 wells and that this equals more water
11 required to complete the well, in the
12 context of the report it implies that
13 it's a bad thing. Instead, it is a
14 positive technological advance because
15 longer laterals equals less water
16 needed to complete the wells. It's
17 irrelevant as long as the withdrawal is
18 properly regulated, managed and
19 performed to avoid impacts to the
20 source.

21 HEARING OFFICER:

22 Okay. I have to stop you
23 there. Okay.

24 MR. DIACONT:

25 Thank you.