

Donald Rank

I strongly support the proposed ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. I ask that the rules also be extended to ban the drawing and disposal of water for fracking purposes. The Delaware River and its tributaries provide multiple benefits to the surrounding area. As a natural environment the waters provide vital habitat for trout and the aquatic ecosystem in general. It has been designated as one of "10 Special Places" by Trout Unlimited. A place that is critically important for fishing and hunting. As such a place, the Delaware River Basin provides an economic benefit to the businesses and towns that provide services in this region. The Delaware River is also an important source of drinking water to 15 million people in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Reducing flow or, even worse, a spill of fracking waste water would present a public health emergency. Even the infrastructure involved in fracking and waste disposal (well pads, pipelines etc) have consequences such as soil erosion and loss of riparian buffer zones that protect the quality of the water in the river. Fracking has already been banned in three states due to its deleterious effects on the ecosystem and risk to public health. The Delaware River and its tributaries are too fragile and have too many vulnerable stakeholders to allow fracking activity of any kind to take place within this watershed.