

Larry Morton

Once again, the Delaware River Commission is proposing to restrict fracking related oil and gas development in the Basin, utilizing unfounded science and public "hysteria" as its justification. This restriction will likely impose serious and significant financial impacts on land and mineral owners in the basin, far beyond whatever real impacts might actually arise. I therefore offer the following comments for consideration.

I worked in the oil and gas industry for over 30 years, in the drilling and production arm of both major integrated and independent Corporations in Texas, Louisiana, California and Alaska. As a result of this experience, I know that the industry has a stellar record for production safety and impact prevention that is unmatched in the world. Overall, when done properly (and there is absolutely no reason to believe that it would be done improperly), fracing is a safe and effective means of enhancing the productivity of a well. Wells are drilled and cased with several "layers" of steel and cement to ensure the protection of potable and surface waters. If this were not the case, then there would now be no unpolluted surface or near surface water in areas like Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Colorado, etc. where fracing has been a common practice for decades! This Commission needs to give serious consideration to the "real science" of fracing, and discount the hysteria of the "chicken-little--the sky is falling" opponents to such a practice.

Land and mineral owners in the Basin will suffer serious financial harm if they are not allowed to take advantage of their property rights because of the "not in my backyard" mentality of the opponents.

I could go on and on about the unfair and biased way our nation's energy policy has been negatively impacted and compromised by the environmentalists and preservationists that seem to be against any and every fossil fuel development project in our nation. Fracing has put us back in the lead in the world-wide quest for oil and gas----because it is still the most cost effective and environmentally friendly source of energy that our nation and the world will continue to use. Therefore, I ask that you please stop the unfounded restraints to our nation's growth and prosperity imposed by unfounded regulations and restrictions on this region's assets.

Thank you