

Alexander Sim

On behalf of myself, family, and friends who benefit from the Delaware River's protected status as a National Wild & Scenic River, I strongly oppose allowing the practice of hydraulic fracturing to be operated or supported in the NJ-NY-PA tri-state area. Fracking has been shown to significantly impact groundwater resources by allowing contamination from the cocktail of chemicals used in the process, not to mention the gas itself. Regardless of the promises made by energy companies about how thousands of feet of rock separate shale beds and drinking water supplies, the very nature of fracking operations find and exploit weaknesses in the rock, allowing fracking water, chemicals, fine sediments, and fracked gas to infiltrate far beyond the immediate scope of the fracturing itself. There is no way of ensuring that any rock formation is 100% geologically sound, especially after it is subjected to hydraulic force and chemical degradation strong enough to break it apart in order to release gas. I have personally visited communities such as Dimock, PA where fracking has contaminated groundwater tables, destroying the property values and quality of life of local residents.

Our water resources are not something we can afford to take for granted, especially with constant expansion of human populations in the tri-state area and the corresponding ever-increasing demand for clean water. New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania are home to countless local reservoirs supplying high-quality drinking water to the residents of local urban and suburban areas. Our more rural neighbors have private wells and most lack the resources to have a significant voice in protecting their smaller-scale personal water resources from the threats of fracking contamination, increased truck traffic through their neighborhoods, and spills from the staging and transport of fracking chemicals. Historic legislation such as the Clean Water Act and the Highlands Act have taken incredibly important steps towards improving the quality of local waterways and ensuring that future generations will be able to assert their rights to clean drinking water. We cannot let the promise of cheap energy compromise our critical water resources and the quality of life for our children and future generations.