

Kevin Kelly

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed regulations. Rather, I believe that we should ban fracking throughout the Watershed, ban frack wastewater from being dumped here, and ban Delaware River Watershed water from being exported to fuel fracking elsewhere. After exhaustive study, Maryland and New York have permanently banned fracking, based on the potential for adverse public health and environmental impacts. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has determined that there are 301 cases of private water well contamination caused by oil and gas operations in the Commonwealth, and over 4,400 water complaints related to oil and gas have been filed by the public with PADEP. Between 2004 and 2016, PADEP lists 9,443 public complaints about environmental problems in shale gas drilling areas. Fracking pollutes groundwater, destroying the quality of aquifers for generations to come. Considering that only 1% of the earth's water is drinkable, how we manage water will define our future and the future of the planet. Since 99% of that water is groundwater, how we look after our aquifers is the most critical component involved. Therefore, I strongly urge you to follow the example of those states that have permanently banned fracking and protect the residents and resources of the Delaware River Watershed.