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DRBC claims that water withdrawals and disposal of fracking waste will not harm the watershed, but there is no environmental or biological assessment showing the cumulative impacts of these activities on the environment and communities of northeastern Pennsylvania. Based on field surveys conducted by trained scientists for The Nature Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pocono Plateau and northeast Pennsylvania---portions of which lie within the Delaware River Basin watershed---are home to the highest concentration of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals in Pennsylvania. Many of these plants and animals are wetland, riparian, and aquatic species that are extremely vulnerable to changes in water chemistry, temperature, turbidity, and stream flows that could result from water withdrawals and disposals of fracking wastewater into the ground and surface waters of the watershed.

Where will the withdrawal and disposal sites be located and how will water be transported to and from these sites? Along with public safety and infrastructure costs, increased truck traffic associated with unconventional oil and gas extraction has been found to be a major contributor to public health costs due to elevated ozone and particulate matter levels from increased emissions of heavy truck traffic and the refining and processing activities required. (Fracktracker.org). How many water-haul truck trips, on a daily, weekly, or hourly basis will be required for these activities? More information is needed to assess both qualitatively and quantitatively the scope of the increased truck traffic and its impacts on the environment and residential communities in northeast Pennsylvania.

Without a thorough environmental assessment with site-specific details on the impacts of water withdrawals, disposal of fracking wastewater, and the increased heavy truck traffic associated with these activities, the public does not have enough information and cannot be expected to comment intelligently on these proposals.