

David Lach

Dear Commissioners:

Once we make a decision that impacts our natural resources, the impacts CANNOT be undone. I have watched too many beautiful and natural resources be exploited for the benefit of a dollar in someone's pocket. Unfortunately, "regulations" to control the impact are extremely difficult to monitor and diligently enforce, or they prove to be simply ineffective. We all know that. We all have very limited places remaining in this world that are truly unique and un-impacted by "human decisions". The Delaware River is a very special place and the trout and other animals that inhabit the Delaware River basin are more fragile than we can predict.

I am writing to support the commission's proposal to protect our natural resources by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing in the Delaware River Basin, but I urge you to strengthen regulations that would let drillers withdraw millions of gallons from our waters and send fracking wastewater here for treatment.

As an angler, I'm concerned about the potential impacts from this activity in a place that is home to some of the best trout fishing in the country.

I am pleased to see that these measures will protect these streams— both today and for future generations.

But I am concerned about water withdrawals for drilling elsewhere. This could have major impacts on our trout habitat. The regulations do not spell out how we would be protected from low flows and high temperatures that could result if drillers were allowed to tap our streams for hydraulic fracturing.

Likewise, if treatment of fracking wastewater is permitted here, the commission should set water quality standards for all chemicals that could be present, so we are assured of proper treatment.

Finally, I'm very concerned about the commission's ability to enforce these regulations, and urge you to put in place sound inspection and monitoring protocols.

I appreciate the commission's thorough study of this issue and thank you for considering my comments. With some tightening, these measures will go a long way toward protecting trout habitat and clean water in the Delaware.

As you know, this is not a minor issue, nor a minor decision. It will have extremely long term, and irreversible impact.

Sincerely,

David Lach
DavidLach123@gmail.com
610-390-2490