

Mary Ann Leitch

With no step by step accounting of frackwater flowback, I fear that spills will not be reported and illegal disposal of that flowback will be a huge problem. In the future, the drilled laterals will be longer and the amount of water per well will more than double. It was reported years ago, "one million per well with 80,000lbs of toxic chemicals". It is being reported now, 10 million and up per well. Where is this water coming from? People need clean, pristine water to survive. The survival of profiteering industries comes in second.

"No man may poison the people for private profits" - Theodore Roosevelt.

Any new expansion of wells, and unfortunately that is on the table, will result in huge volumes of frackwater flowback that must be disposed of properly. The only way to protect us is to keep the ban on gas drilling in place.

It is important to not only support a complete ban on natural gas drilling, but also to oppose proposed regulations 440.5 which would allow the wastewater produced by fracking to be stored, processed, and discharged in the Delaware River Watershed. In addition, we also oppose proposed regulation 440.4 which would allow water to be exported from the Basin for fracking elsewhere.

Article I § 27 of our State Constitution guarantees our right to clean air and water. Our water quality must not be degraded. Natural gas activities result in discharges of the myriad of chemicals used in fracking and results in radioactivity downstream.

Proposed Regulation 440.5 must be deleted. No water from outside this watershed should be imported for treatment. Toxic, hazardous and radioactive materials build up over time and are cumulative. Our groundwater and streams would be at risk.

Most of the Delaware River is protected by the Commission's "Special Protection Waters" regulations. Water quality is not allowed to be degraded. "Treatment" & discharge of fracking wastewater will degrade the water quality of the river. Rescind proposed section 440.5

The Precautionary Principle states that if you cannot predict all the effects of an action, do not do it. Do not allow any gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin.

Between 2004 and 2016, PA DEP handled 9,443 complaints about environmental problems in shale gas drilling areas. We do not need those problems in the Delaware River watershed. Keep the total ban on gas drilling in place.

The National Academy of Sciences found streams near gas wells are negatively impacted by runoff and sedimentation, harming life, fish and other wildlife. The DRBC has a mission to protect our resources. Make the ban on natural gas drilling permanent.

Peer-reviewed studies in western Pennsylvania show that radioactive materials have accumulated over 600x normal, downstream from "treatment plants". Eliminate Section 440.5

Do not allow any gas drilling activities in our watershed.