

CARLUCCIO:

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C-A-R-L-U-C-C-I-O. Here in the area of --- of the Delaware River watershed in Carbon and neighboring counties not far from the college are shale formations that could be fracked for gas. It is essential that we, as watershed residents, understand the impacts of shale gas extraction and mine fracking must be banned completely. That means banning fracking throughout the Delaware River watershed, any frack wastewater import, or storage, processing discharge here and banning the export of Delaware River for fracking elsewhere.

One of the reasons fracking has caused so much harm where it is occurring in Pennsylvania, is because frack fluids are so toxic and have adverse human health impacts that can lead to disease and to reproductive and/or developmental problems for our most vulnerable populations, developing fetuses, infants and children.

For example, one scientific

study conducted in 2017 identified 67 fracking related chemicals that are routinely used to frack gas or that are found in wastewater produced by fracking. The 67 chemicals were found to be constantly associated with reproductive or developmental toxicity and include many compounds including sulfurs, pesticides, metals, volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Why is this a problem?

Because those chemicals cannot be widely controlled or removed before they are released into the environment by the fracking process. Science, through many peer review reports, warns us that these fracking chemicals move out of the shale formations into aquifers and into the surface through several pathways.

Transport, storage, handling, discharge, are more of these pollution pathways, and according to the Environmental Protection Agency, fracking pollutants have contaminated water and will continue to do so, because fracking cannot be made safe.

Pennsylvania DEP reports itself that water supplies, private water wells, over 300, have been contaminated by oil and gas activities within the Commonwealth.

This is in a watershed that some people today said are not being affected. So the only way to control this is to prevent the pollution. The only way to prevent the pollution is to actually ban fracking and ban wastewater imports and discharges here and ban water from being removed from our watershed. Because when you remove it, you don't have it at the source in order to provide a fresh supply. That is the basis of the 17 million people that can get their water from the Delaware River watershed. We also need that water to replenish and make healthy the habitats of the Delaware River watershed, the water you see in the river and our awesome lands that feed that river. Thank you.