## barbara de vries

The Delaware River runs from New York State and Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware with a watershed basin of 14,119 square miles. This is the most densely populated area of the Northeast. The Catskill and Pocono Mountains border this artery-like river, and are both huge recreational areas for the urban and suburban Tristate area - Including New York City and Philadelphia. Millions of people come to the Delaware river basin every year to enjoy the river and its surroundings. An entire hospitality industry that employs tens of thousands of people year-around depends on the popularity of the area, with second homes, camps and camp grounds, ski and waterparks, hiking, and river/water sports, hotels, inns, spas, resorts etc. To pollute rather than protect this mighty and stunningly beautiful river with fracking waste is unimaginable and criminal in its intent. The Delaware Water Gap National Park is right in the middle, and here many polluting activities by individuals are illegal (as well as picking flowers). Would allowing fracking waste to pass through the park break the laws already in place in this Federal Park? It is not like water can be stopped from doing what it does naturally, so pro-fracking would automatically overrule Federal Laws of the park? Or is the NEPA allowing all of this now?

Not only would fracking waste affect the lives of millions, by diminishing jobs and living wages, but it would also pose a health threat to all who live and depend on the river. Ground water will be affected, and thus drinking and every other use of the water that is part of the Delaware River watershed.

The fact that the river's natural and God-given function as a necessary element for survival for the people who depend on it, is even brought into question and we are asked to write explanations that can be used to stop this madness shows how corrupt, greedy and shortsighted the experts and the American energy industries have become. Without clean water we do not survive. Our species and every other species becomes extinct without access to usable water, at which point no one needs gas or oil. Think about real life consequences before thinking of monetary profits. You can't drink a bottomline.