

Joan L Farb

It is imperative that there is a complete and permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities which include wastewater processing and discharges from fracking and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking. Why a ban ? ... Because there are many, many significant scientific studies showing detrimental impacts to public health and to the environment from these methods.

For an example, the Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility assessed 685 peer reviewed papers on gas drilling and fracking. They found that the majority of these studies showed substantial correlation between fracking and illnesses such as cancer and pollution in air and water.

Also, fracking has used 5-10 million gallons of water per well and presently there is trend toward an increase to 10-20 million. This tremendous withdrawal of water would go against the DRBC Water Code- Policy of Protection and Preservation that states:

The waters of the Delaware River Basin are limited in quantity and the Basin is frequently subject to drought warnings and drought declarations due to limited water storage supply and streamflow during drought periods. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Commission to discourage the exportation of water from the Delaware River Basin.

In addition, the DRBC's Special Protection Waters regulations cover the entire Non-Tidal Delaware River not allowing any reduction in the quality of the water in any manner.

These regulations remind me of Benjamin Franklin who is considered our first conservationist and he helped create the Philadelphia Water Commission. Franklin once said "When the well is dry, we know the worth of water"

Thus, DRBC, don't let the well go dry for 17 million people in the Delaware River Basin. Ban permanently and completely gas and oil drilling and all related activities.