

Richard Watkins

Dear Comments,

I write as a member of America's energy industry to say that I strongly oppose the DRBC's proposed rule to severely limit and thereby effectively ban hydraulic fracturing within your jurisdiction.

Our industry serves the nation by powering our economy and helping keep energy affordable for millions of Americans. While producing and delivering energy is what we do, our priority is safety. We work hard every day to ensure that our communities, work sites, and the environment are not put at risk.

Government data and scientific research make it clear that our commitment to safety is paying off. Hydraulic fracturing is safe and does not contaminate drinking water. Given this evidence, your proposed rule goes too far. Please do not give credence to the misinformation promoted by extreme anti-energy groups.

The risks of allowing energy development in the DRBC region are minimal, but the benefits are certain. Domestic energy development is critical to our nation's strength---to our economy, to job creation, and to our security. Households have extra money every year because we produce much of our own energy.

The DRBC's proposed rule would take our nation in the wrong direction. Recognizing the strong safety record of energy development, the federal government has rightly begun to limit unnecessary regulations. The DBRC should go in the same direction.

I respectfully ask the Commission to withdraw its new draft regulation and replace it with rules to support, not restrict, American energy development. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard Watkins
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