

Paula Grande

It is imperative that there be a complete and permanent ban on fracking and its related activities in the Delaware River Basin, the source of drinking water for 15-17 million people, including the urban areas of NYC and Philadelphia.

As you know, in 2010, a de facto moratorium on fracking and its related activities in the watershed was imposed. Late in 2017, a resolution was announced by the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to issue regulations to permanently ban fracking in the Basin.

Unfortunately, when the draft ban proposed regulations were released on Nov. 30, 2017, they left open the possibility of water withdrawals as well as wastewater processing, storage, and disposal related to fracking activities occurring outside of the Basin.

It is inconsistent to ban the drilling part of fracking and at the same time to propose regulations that would permit water withdrawals and wastewater disposal related to fracking outside of the Basin. Water used in fracking is taken out of the hydrologic cycle permanently. Wastewater from fracking contains toxic chemicals, many of which are secret, as well as radioactive elements brought to the surface from deep geological formations, elements which cannot be removed, and which last for thousands of years. There are now 'super-sized' wells for fracking which will withdraw more fresh water and produce more wastewater.

I am, therefore, requesting a complete and permanent ban to safeguard the Delaware River's unique and invaluable watershed and thus the health of humans and other life dependent upon it. Thank you for your consideration of this request.