

Spencer Merolla

I urge you to revise the draft to reflect a total ban on fracking related activities such as extracting water, transporting or disposing of wastewater in the Delaware River watershed. It is the contamination of the groundwater that concerns me. Where I live we enjoy the largest gravity-fed unfiltered water system in the world. It's almost a miracle, and one that I appreciate every day when I drink water from the faucet without fear that it is contaminated. Everyone should have access to clean and safe drinking water. As we've seen in Dimock, PA and other locations, fracking and related activities can cause irrevocable harm to this precious resource. There are 301 cases of private water well contamination caused by oil and gas in PA alone, and over 4,400 water complaints related to oil and gas have been filed by the public with PADEP.

It's deeply troublesome to me that in a state that does not allow fracking (NY) we build ANY infrastructure to support fracking elsewhere. But the Delaware River basin ought to be totally off limits for this sort of thing. It's much bigger than a private well, it's a water source for 17 million people. It is simply too important a resource to jeopardize.