

Jason Schulman

Very simply put, a total and permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities (including wastewater processing and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking operations) throughout the Delaware River Watershed is necessary because the only sure way to prevent pollution from fracking and its activities is to totally ban it. It is senseless to ban fracking but allow its toxic waste to be dumped in the Watershed and our precious fresh water to be depleted for fracking:

Fracking pollutes groundwater, destroying the quality of aquifers for generations to come.

Natural gas is primarily methane, a greenhouse gas 86 times more efficient at warming the atmosphere than carbon over a 20 year time frame, with effects lasting for hundreds of years.

Substantial damage is caused by the toxic wastewater produced by fracking which contains many dangerous pollutants, including naturally occurring radioactive materials, that cannot be fully removed by treatment and those damages can substantially harm the water quality of our streams and the life in them. Pollutants will inevitably spread downstream to negatively impact all of the watershed states, the habitats, fish, wildlife, and recreational values of the river and our vulnerable drinking water supplies.

Air emissions and water pollution have greater adverse health impacts on those who reside, work, go to school, or frequent the zone within approximately 2 miles from the gas operation. Studies show that those closest have greater exposure and are more likely to develop disease and other health problems.

The use of water for fracking is "depletive" - all of the water is lost – either by being polluted or by being consumed since most of the water injected for fracking is not recovered and is not returned to the source.

The withdrawal of water from a waterway or groundwater has the potential to directly disrupt or diminish the flow of water to hydrologically connected wetlands or other water-dependent bodies such as open ponds and springs.

The removal of water from aquifers or surface water bodies reduces the amount of fresh water available to dilute the input of pollutants.

Pumping of aquifers has the potential to cause a pollution plume to move toward the pump location, spreading the pathway of pollution and/or the rate of movement.

Pumping of aquifers has the potential to disrupt the flow of groundwater that feeds existing water supply wells or natural resources such as wetlands, seeps, and springs. It can also diminish and/or disrupt available groundwater that supports forests and other vegetation, including agriculture, harming existing uses.

And one could go on and on. There is no alternative: a complete and permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities is needed RIGHT NOW.