

# Amy Harlib

**TOTAL BAN ON ALL FRACKING AND FRACKING RELATED PROJECTS! STOP THIS INSANE POISONING OF OUR WATER, AIR, AND SOIL!**

In a press event at COP23, Robert Howarth, the David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology at Cornell University said, "Methane is an important greenhouse gas and is currently responsible for an amount of global warming equal to approximately 60% of that caused by carbon dioxide. Methane reductions offer one of the few available approaches to immediately slow the rate of global warming, since the climate responds more quickly to decreases in methane compared to carbon dioxide."<sup>[i]</sup> A ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin is an important step in limiting methane emissions, but allowing water withdrawals and the processing of fracking waste in the Basin will only enable more fracking and, therefore, more methane leaks outside of the basin.

A 2017 study by researchers at the Northeast Climate Science Center and Climate System Research Center at U. Mass Amherst found that the Northeastern U.S. is the fastest-warming region in the lower 48 states, heating at a rate 50 percent faster than the global average.<sup>[ii]</sup> <sup>[iii]</sup> According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Records from the mid-twentieth century through 2000 show that the number of snow-covered days across the Northeast has decreased significantly."<sup>[iv]</sup> The shrinking snowpack and increased runoff will worsen as temperatures continue to rise. Further reducing our water supply by moving water out of the basin and exposing our remaining water to fracking waste contamination should not be permitted, especially when those practices support the fossil fuel production that is exacerbating warming in the first place.

In fact, at the very same time that warming is posing risks to our water supply, the amount of water required for fracking is increasing. "Oil and natural gas fracking, on average, uses more than 28 times the water it did 15 years ago, gulping up to 9.6 million gallons of water per well."<sup>[v]</sup> <sup>[vi]</sup> More clean water contaminated means more waste. Fracking was never a good idea, but, as the problems it helped create intensify, it has become such a bad idea that it must be stopped. The Delaware River Basin Commission must provide the protections the Basin deserves and vote in favor of a full ban on fracking, water extraction, and fracking waste processing