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Dear Commissioners,

Any potential contamination of the Delaware River Basin from dumping of fracking waste would be a needless tragedy especially in light of the inevitable rise of (even unsubsidized) wind and solar power, which will displace fossil fuels as our source of energy. In fact renewable energy is already doing just that, as it's cost-comparable to natural gas. To continue to cater to the fracking industry, to allow dumping of that industry's waste, which is possibly radioactive, and to withdraw water to feed that industry, is unacceptable.

The regulations proposed by the DRBC are setting up an unsustainable cycle of sending clean water out of the basin and bringing highly contaminated water into the basin. If we are to successfully combat climate change, we must stop our unsustainable practices and avoid implementing new ones.

DRBC regulates withdrawals from streams with the use of a "pass-by flow" or "minimum flow limit" that limits the amount of water that can be withdrawn to protect streams from being overdrawn. However, a pass-by flow that is based on using the Q7-10 (the flow which occurs for a period of seven consecutive days one time in 10 years – considered "drought flow") is not adequate to protect waterways and the life that depends on them and can be expected to cause direct harm to the habitats and water quality of the stream. Using the Q7-10 allows the stream's flow to be artificially "flattened" because the natural flow regime and seasonality will be disrupted and potentially eliminated. An ecological flow analysis of the waterway and an inventory of the species and habitats that live there is an essential protection. To set an ecological flow to govern withdrawals regulators must measure the natural variation of the waterway's flows in terms of volume, rate, temperature, stream structure, and quality to understand the needs of species and the effects of flow on habitat and water quality. Setting protections based on a waterway's ecological flow regime is necessary to give needed protection but that is not what DRBC does or is proposing to do. The withdrawal of water under the draft and current regulations will significantly damage the ecosystems and species of the streams and rivers that would be tapped.

The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking's authors cite a 2017 study which found that "fracking wastewater discharged into rivers and

streams through treatment plants created dozens of brominated and iodinated disinfection byproducts that are particularly toxic and “raise concerns regarding human health” (pg 18).

There are more and more people in my home state, Pennsylvania, and my adopted home, New York, who are keenly aware of the dangers that fracking has brought to the former. We will not remain silent in our defense of the Delaware River Basin, and our environment.

Sincerely

Judith Canepa