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Dear Commissioners,

As executive director of the social advocacy arm of the Unitarian Universalist congregations of New Jersey, I and our Environmental Justice Task Force wholeheartedly endorse a complete ban on fracking in the Delaware River Valley and its outlets.

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." 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.

Pennsylvania's Wolf administration talks about a 100-year cycle of shale gas development. At present, there are about 10,000 wells in the ground. The industry's goal is 100,000 wells. In the past ten years, more than 300 confirmed cases of water contamination have occurred. Some of those cases involve several families. More than 9,400 complaints have been filed with the DEP. More than 4,400 of those are water-related. Most have gone unaddressed. More than 1200 peer-reviewed studies have identified wide-ranging health effects already impacting Pennsylvanians. Dead cattle and fish kills are just some of the indications that shale gas development is affecting our farm animals and wildlife. Quality of life is all but gone for many in the shale fields and the many more who now spend every available minute fighting pipeline and infrastructure projects. And all of that and much, much more is what has happened just ten years in. Any action by the DRBC that enables an industry that has done so much to harm Pennsylvanians in just ten years and exposes the basin to the particular threats fracking waste and water extraction pose is unacceptable. The DRBC must impose a full fracking ban.

As stated in the Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition, growing evidence shows that regulations are simply not capable of preventing harm (pg 17). Further, cases of drinking water sources contaminated by drilling and fracking activities, or

by associated waste disposal, are now proven. EPA's assessment of fracking's impacts on drinking water resources confirmed specific instances of water contamination caused by drilling and fracking related activities and identified the various pathways by which this contamination has occurred: spills; discharge of fracking waste into rivers and streams; and underground migration of chemicals, including gas, into drinking water wells (pg18).

As our members live and use water from the affected region, we feel very strongly that Pennsylvania as well as surrounding states must shift resources from this extremely dirty and water polluting effort to other, renewable and nonpolluting sources of ene

Sincerely,

Rob Gregson