

Jamie Evanini

I am writing to thank the DRBC for its proposal to ban fracking near the Delaware River, but I urgently insist that the proposed rules be amended to also ban the dumping of fracking waste water into the Delaware River Basin, ban the extraction of water from the Delaware to be used in fracking elsewhere, and extend the ban on fracking and related activities to the entire Delaware River Basin area.

My family and I live less than 10 miles from the Delaware River in Hopewell Township, NJ. We love living near the river -- being able to walk alongside it, going tubing, etc. We also rely on well water at our home. Thus, the health of the groundwater/aquifers of the Delaware River Basin is extremely important to our health! Dumping fracking wastewater threatens the safety of the river water, and the groundwater in the region. Not only does fracking waste water contain carcinogens, but it also contains radioactive materials! This is incredibly dangerous, and NJ's wastewater processing plants are not equipped to deal with radioactive wastewater.

Also, because the oil & gas industry is exempt from important protections like the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, companies are not required to reveal what dangerous chemicals are used in the fracking process and present in the fracking wastewater. How can we guarantee that wastewater is being processed safely if we don't even know all that is in it! And nothing less than an absolute guarantee is acceptable when it comes to the safety of our river, the source of drinking water for 15 million people. Do not gamble with people's lives just for the sake of higher corporate profits.

The proposed rules also go against the DRBC Water Code's Policy of Protection and Preservation. In section 2.30.2, the code states:

"The waters of the Delaware River Basin are limited in quantity and the Basin is frequently subject to drought warnings and drought declarations due to limited water supply storage and streamflow during dry periods. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Commission to discourage the exportation of water from the Delaware River Basin."

and

"The Basin waters have limited assimilative capacity and limited capacity to accept conservative substances without significant impacts. Accordingly, it also shall be the policy of the Commission to discourage the importation of wastewater into the Delaware River Basin that would significantly reduce the assimilative capacity of the receiving stream on the basis that the ability of Delaware River Basin streams to accept wastewater discharges should be reserved for users within the Basin." <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/watercode.pdf>

These are sensible policies which need to be upheld. Do not allow the waters of our Delaware to be used for fracking elsewhere. Do not allow fracking wastewater to be discharged into the Delaware River.