

1 contaminated it will not be  
2 clean again.

3 HEARING OFFICER:

4 Thank you, ma'am. Clio  
5 Gates will be next. And then  
6 Katie Smith. And then Maya Van  
7 Rossum. And is this Ms. Gates?

8 MS. GATES:

9 Yes.

10 HEARING OFFICER:

11 Go ahead.

12 MS. GATES:

13 Good afternoon. My name  
14 is Clio Gates. And I'm an  
15 intern at the National  
16 Resources Defense Council. I  
17 would like to thank the  
18 Commission for giving us the  
19 opportunity to share our  
20 thoughts with you concerning  
21 the proposed ban of fracking in  
22 the Delaware River Basin.

23 Over the past several  
24 weeks, I've looked closely at  
25 the effects of fracking on the

1 health and environment of the  
2 Susquehanna River Basin, an  
3 area directly adjacent to the  
4 Delaware River Basin.

5 Since 2003, the  
6 Susquehanna River Basin has  
7 been open to fracking. We only  
8 need to look there to see how  
9 fracking and its wastewater may  
10 effect the Delaware River  
11 Basin.

12 Through my research, I  
13 concluded that fracking simply  
14 cannot happen without  
15 accidents. Wastewater spills  
16 into water bodies. Gas wells  
17 blow out. Both fracking fluid  
18 and methane contaminate  
19 drinking water.

20 And these accidents,  
21 despite seemingly strict  
22 regulations on fracking and its  
23 wastewater, happen routinely on  
24 an almost weekly basis. It's  
25 no wonder four miles of the

1           Susquehanna River were  
2           downgraded by Pennsylvania's  
3           Department of Environmental  
4           Protection because they failed  
5           to meet water quality  
6           standards.

7                   I'll share with you just  
8           a few of the many incidents I  
9           came across in my research. In  
10          Dimock, 8,000 gallons of  
11          fracking fluid spilled into  
12          wetlands from faulty supply  
13          pipes.

14                   The spill polluted  
15          streams and resulted in a  
16          massive fish die-off.  
17          Residents' drinking water  
18          turned brown and flammable.  
19          After showering, Dimock  
20          residents experiencing  
21          dizziness and headaches and  
22          suffered from skin sores.

23                   In Bradford County, a  
24          well spilled thousands of  
25          gallons of fracking fluid into

1 a tributary of the Susquehanna  
2 River. The spill took 12 hours  
3 to contain and seven families  
4 who live in the area had to  
5 evacuate their homes.

6 Finally, in Wyoming  
7 County, a well spilled hundreds  
8 of thousands of gallons of  
9 fracking wastewater into the  
10 nearby area. The mixture of  
11 sand, water, hydrochloric acid,  
12 and thousands of other toxic  
13 chemicals spewed out of the  
14 well at a rate of 25,000 to  
15 over 30,000 gallons per hour.  
16 The spill took 18 hours to  
17 contain. Multiple families had  
18 to evacuate and the road to the  
19 site was blocked off.

20 These are just a small  
21 sample of the accidents that  
22 happened next door in  
23 Susquehanna. But they  
24 demonstrate the toxicity of  
25 fracking, whether that be the

1 drilling of wells or the  
2 handling of and transportation  
3 of wastewater.

4 We cannot afford to make  
5 the same mistake in the  
6 Delaware River Basin. And I  
7 implore the Commission to enact  
8 a full ban on fracking,  
9 inclusive of fracking  
10 wastewater and water transfers  
11 in the Delaware River Basin.  
12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER:

14 Thank you. Katie Smith  
15 will be next. And then Maya  
16 Van Rossum. And then Alicia  
17 Dorsey. And Ms. Smith, if you  
18 would?

19 MS. SMITH:

20 Good afternoon. My name  
21 is Katie Smith. And I'm here  
22 on behalf of the Pineland  
23 Preservation Alliance, a  
24 nonprofit organization  
25 dedicated to the protection of