

Ellen Fauerbach

Dear DRBC:

A huge portion of the East Coast, home to millions of people, would be seriously impacted if the Delaware River and its watershed were to be polluted by fracking. Although Governor Cuomo has banned fracking in NY state, it is my understanding that permitting for water extraction, and compression stations and other things as part of the fracking process are not banned. As a result, the DRB is at risk for pollution from fracking or from low water levels from water extraction. My interaction with a member of the Oil and Gas lobby was very unsatisfactory when I asked a few years ago, how much water the industry was planning to take from the Delaware River aquifer. He refused to be specific and claimed that there was plenty of water for everybody. I seriously doubt that. I hope the commission will be rigorous and legislate based on the worst case scenario ie. ban fracking and the related accoutrements in perpetuity as experience has shown that accidents happen with terrible results for the environment and the health of people and fauna in the area. There is too much at stake to risk lax permitting for the benefit of today's profits for an outmoded industry.