

1                   MR. GORMAN:

2                   My name is John Gorman. I am here on  
3 behalf of Sludge Free UMBT. A non-profit organization  
4 based in Upper Mount Bethel Township in Northeast  
5 Pennsylvania. An area where residents depend on well  
6 water from the Delaware River Basin. Extracting water  
7 from basin will dramatically lower the water table for  
8 the entire region.

9                   I make this claim based on a recent  
10 evidence produced for an environmental lawsuit we were  
11 involved in. Specifically, developers seeking to turn  
12 a 150 acre farm into a golf course, drilled four test  
13 wells to analyze the interconnectiveness for water  
14 wells of adjacent homeowners. Test wells were run for  
15 a 24-hour period removing 351,000 gallons of water. As  
16 a result, adjacent wells went down by as much as two  
17 feet. Now, let's do the math. It takes an average of  
18 4.4 million gallons of water to drill one gas well.  
19 Multiply that by the estimated 3,000 to 5,000 new  
20 fracking wells to be drilled each year in Pennsylvania  
21 for the next 30 years. And you get the total amount of  
22 fresh water needed, 528 billion gallons. Even if only  
23 ten percent of the water needed comes from the basin,  
24 the industry will consume 12.8 million gallons of fresh  
25 water a day, every day for the next 30 years.

1           If removing 351,000 gallons of water for  
2 one day from a 150-acre Upper Mount Bethel farm while  
3 neighboring wells will drop by two feet, what impact  
4 will removing 4.8 million gallons a day from the  
5 underground resources of drinking water? Not only will  
6 rural communities be affected, but so will downstream  
7 rural communities who rely on the Delaware River for  
8 their source of water.

9           Environmental impact cannot be avoided  
10 says the oil and gas industry inside Thomas Alexander.  
11 But just how big of an environmental impact? According  
12 to PABP records, the number of fracking well  
13 encasements that have failed is over six percent.  
14 Meanwhile, a Cornell study forecasts an even higher  
15 number, four in ten fracking wells will fail in  
16 Northeast Pennsylvania. Leaking fracked wells include  
17 toxic chemicals into the 528 billion gallon equation.  
18 As I speak, unknown quantities of chemicals are now  
19 vibrating underground. A contaminated aquifer can  
20 never be cleaned. The current administration has  
21 aligned itself with the fossil fuel industry. Who is  
22 your loyalty to? President Trump and the oil and gas  
23 corporations or the residents that voted for you? All  
24 of us can live without fracking in the basin. None of  
25 us can live without water. To protect the water supply

1 to 70,000,000 people, you can't ignore these numbers.  
2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER:

4 Thank you, Mr. Gorman. Ms. Tamara  
5 Clements.

6 MS. CLEMENTS:

7 My name is Tamara Clements. The Delaware  
8 River is protected by the DRBC special protection water  
9 regulations, which does not allow water quality to be  
10 diminished in any way. Banning the acceptance of  
11 fracking waste water must be clearly stated in the  
12 regulations. Waste water plants do not know which  
13 chemicals they are treating from fracked water. And  
14 their attempts to disinfect water may have negative  
15 consequences for our waterways.

16 Duke University researchers found that  
17 waste water from fracking often spills into rivers and  
18 streams during storage and shipment. I give you an  
19 example from the Allegheny River, which is the river I  
20 grew up on. In 2016, fourth year results of the TRQ,  
21 one of the most comprehensive surveys in the region,  
22 continued to turn up high levels of bromide, which is a  
23 salt often associate with waste water from the  
24 Marcellus shale fracking, and abandoned mine drainage  
25 in Blackjack Creek. The creek has the region's highest