

Wendy Goetz

I have diligently examined, and continue to share with you documentation that demonstrates the cost to our community from the Fracking Industry.

If water withdrawals or frack waste is allowed, even in a permitting process, our Upper Delaware Watershed is threatened.

In the near eight years of research I have not found any argument that factually can claim that fracking, water withdrawals, and frack waste storage, transport, and remediation is safe.

I sincerely agree with the fractivist... "It's is not IF, but WHEN..."

I exclaim It IS THEN.

The statistics of emissions, and the devastation of communities, and water sources continue, whether the media reports it or not.

I submit to you.... initiative from my 'backyard' which this draft regulation contradicts.

DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE CASE STUDY

"The analysis, supported with a Delaware Watershed Catalyst grant from the Open Space Institute, helped Sussex County create a state-of-the-art, science-based open space plan that not only helped identify the best lands for protecting drinking water but also increased local interest in open-space funding. It has prompted inquiries from towns interested in potentially applying for county open-space funding to protect or improve management of land to ensure water quality.

Thanks to a \$25,000 Catalyst Grant from the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, Sussex County was able to create a state-of-the-art, science-based open space plan that not only helped prioritize the best lands for protecting drinking water, but also helped revive public support for public open-space funding.

Now, in place of debating whether to keep its open- space program, the county is instead able to focus on protecting lands that conserve county and downriver drinking-water resources while expanding and connecting open space and trails."

<https://4states1source.org/wp-content/uploads/Sussex-County-Case-Study.pdf>

Returning to the point, this is a dangerous and misleading Draft Fracking Regulation that has been introduced threatening the entire River Basin.

The Delaware River was designated as a national Wild and Scenic River by Congress because of its outstanding features, irreplaceable resources, exceptional water quality and scenic and recreational value. These prized assets provide important economic benefit to all four states whose tributaries flow to the Delaware River. These values are gravely jeopardized by fracking and all its polluting operations, as well as pipeline infrastructure, and must be protected for the public and future generations.

The entire Delaware River is protected by DRBC's Special Protection Waters regulations that do not allow water quality to be diminished in any way. We are dependent on that protection to keep our water safe, after all it is the drinking water for 17 million constituents in 4 states.

I oppose this proposed regulation and ask you to protect our entire Watershed from contamination or degradation by including frack waste storage, transport, and remediation as well as water withdrawals to the ban along with fracking itself.

Whereas the proposed regulations include a ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas they DO NOT prevent water withdrawals (3-5 million gallons per frack) or cover drilling that does not use fracking. Nor do they eliminate inter-basin transfer of water and wastewater. Substantial damage is caused by the toxic wastewater produced by fracking which contains many dangerous pollutants, including naturally occurring radioactive materials. And adding insult to injury, since 2005 the industry has not been required to disclose those fracking chemicals to the public. These cannot be fully removed by treatment and those damages can substantially harm the water quality. Pollutants will inevitably spread downstream to negatively impact all the watershed states, the habitats, fish, wildlife, and recreational values of the river and our vulnerable drinking water supplies.

The cumulative actions we take today will determine the health of our children tomorrow.

I ask for your support to immediately to protect our Watershed and the Delaware River Basin.

Since 2010, a moratorium on all gas drilling, hydraulic fracturing (fracking), water withdrawals, and wastewater treatment and discharge from fracking throughout the entire Delaware River Basin has been in existence. However, these new draft regulations introduced in September 2017 challenge this 'freeze'. We need to keep it frozen for the generations.

The new proposed regulations could allow the storage, treatment, disposal and/or discharge of wastewater within the Delaware River Basin. Water withdrawals and the "...inter-basin transfer of water and wastewater for purposes of natural gas development where permitted" is disturbing news for our cherished river and its streams, tributaries, and estuaries.

Negative impacts to well water and stream water quality are proven to occur near gas drilling operations and related activities.

In the struggle to protect the Delaware River, I am reminded of George Washington's challenge on Christmas in 1776. His counter-sign of "Victory or Death" directed to forces crossing the Delaware River remains the same today as citizens, River Keepers, and Commissioners speak up to applaud a frack ban but also demand full regulations for our water source for over 17 million people. Death for future generations is certain if our water sources continue to be extracted and polluted by the oil and gas industry's cumulative practices.

Municipalities have seized the opportunity to speak out for their citizens of the Watershed by adopting the proposed resolutions. Commissioners and elected officials have signed and sent letters in support of increased regulation.

This concerned citizen agrees a complete and permanent ban on natural gas drilling and fracking and all related activities (including wastewater processing and discharges from and water withdrawals for drilling and fracking operations) throughout the Delaware River Watershed is needed.

The only sure way to prevent pollution from fracking and its activities is to totally restrict it with a ban. It makes no sense to ban fracking yet allow its toxic waste to be dumped in the Watershed and our precious fresh water to be depleted for fracking.

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The entire non-tidal Delaware River is protected by DRBC's Special Protection Waters regulations that do not allow water quality to be diminished in any way. We are dependent on that protection to keep our water safe.

The SPW program since 1992 has prevented degradation in streams and rivers where existing water quality is better than the established water quality standards through stricter control of wastewater discharges and reporting requirements. Currently, the entire 197-mile non-tidal Delaware River from Hancock, N.Y. to Trenton, N.J. is considered Special Protection Waters, three-quarters of which is also included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

We all know that we need clean water to survive, and supporting the generations ability to thrive lies in enacting this freeze again on fracking and it's practices.

We need a complete and permanent ban now.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking time to protect our water and our future.

I appreciate your time, service, and dedication to your citizens and constituents.

Let's all protect our vital water resource, and our scenic basin.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Goetz