

James Downey

As a New Yorker and a member of Environmental Advocates of New York, I strongly urge the Delaware River Basin Commission to use their rulemaking process on Hydraulic Fracturing to ban fracking and all associated processes from taking place in the basin.

Currently, the regulations leave the door open to both fracking waste and water withdrawals for fracking, threatening the drinking water source for millions of New York City residents and other New Yorkers.

Several studies have shown that fracking waste not only contains hundreds of carcinogenic or toxic chemicals, but also contains dangerous levels of radioactivity and salts that are not easily treated at wastewater treatment facilities. The drilling industry also uses tremendous quantities of water to the tune of millions of gallons withdrawn per day. Allowing water withdrawals and fracking waste in the watershed would spell disaster for our most precious resource - our water.

The Delaware River is essential to the wellbeing of New Yorkers and wildlife. The DRBC has the opportunity to get this right by banning fracking and all of its associated practices through their rulemaking process. I urge the DRBC to make the decisions that are most protective of public health and our environment.