

1 It has a --- you know that there's chemicals being  
2 involved here. And I don't have to reiterate what  
3 everyone has said before. Issues of chemicals,  
4 radioactivity, you know. I'm sure you're well aware of  
5 it.

6           There should not be drainage of any kind  
7 of water to be used for fracking. There certainly  
8 should not be any dumping of fracked water back into  
9 the Delaware River. We finally had fish, Shad coming  
10 back into to the Delaware River. People use it for  
11 swimming. Delaware Beaches, I know the issues that had  
12 been going on in Delaware with polluted water. We  
13 don't need it. We have to be responsible at some  
14 point. Water is our most precious resource. Land is a  
15 precious resource. We have to think about our future.  
16 We have to think about our children's future. So I  
17 hope --- I hope you will use good judgment in making  
18 the decision here. Thank you.

19           HEARING OFFICER:

20           Okay. Thank you, Mr. LeFever. Amanda  
21 John-Kimesy.

22           MS. JOHN-KIMESY:

23           I'm Amanda John-Kimesy. I'm the  
24 Pennsylvania and Delaware program manager for the  
25 National Parks Conservation Association. And I want to

1 say thank you to the Delaware River Basin Commission  
2 for this opportunity to testify today. On behalf of  
3 NPCA's more than 4,000 members in Delaware of 35,000  
4 members in New Jersey, 55,000 members in New York,  
5 45,000 members in Pennsylvania, I want to applaud the  
6 Delaware River Basin Commission for taking steps to ban  
7 hydraulic fracking in the watershed.

8           This basin is home to ten national park  
9 sites that lure more than 11 million national park  
10 visitors each year. These visitors come to enjoy  
11 world-class trout fishing in the Upper Delaware scenic  
12 and recreational river, the waterfalls and paddling  
13 opportunities in the Delaware Water Gap and Natural  
14 Recreation area. The recreational water sites that  
15 line the Lower Delaware Valley scenic section and more.

16           By banning hydraulic fracturing, the  
17 Delaware River Basin --- in the Delaware River Basin,  
18 the DRBC would protect water shed, the water shed  
19 national parks within it for the likelihood of  
20 contamination from fracking, disruption of subsurface  
21 gases, which can enter the groundwater, mechanical well  
22 failures, and venting flaring and leaking that we know  
23 occurs in the Susquehanna and Ohio River Basins.

24           If fracking were to expand to the Delaware  
25 River watershed, national park visitors would likely

1 experience less clear views from regional phase  
2 associated with methane and other voluntary organic  
3 compounds, cloudy park skies. And the national park  
4 waterways that they expect to be seen would be  
5 vulnerable to harmful contamination from fracking  
6 activity upstream. These visitors help to support the  
7 basin's robust recreation and tourism economy. In  
8 2016, national park visitors alone spent more than \$470  
9 million in watershed communities surrounding national  
10 parks. This economy activity directly benefited  
11 national park visitors by supporting approximately  
12 8,000 local jobs.

13           Industrialization of park lands associated  
14 with natural gas drilling looms in the Rocky Mountain  
15 West have already proven to have adverse effects on  
16 national park visitors and the local economy they rely  
17 on. Because of hydraulic fracking around Theodore  
18 Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, visitors now  
19 endure heavy traffic, air quality warnings, and  
20 night-time gas flares that reduce dark sky visibility.  
21 Without this ban, such outcomes could threaten our  
22 basin's national parks, too.

23           While we value DRBC's efforts to tighten  
24 the regulations on withdrawals from the river to use  
25 inside --- sorry, with fracking and limit disposal into

1 the basin, we ask that such regulations and practice  
2 insure that the Upper Delaware Recreational River is  
3 particularly protected from any withdrawal threat that  
4 could exacerbate flow irregularity or harm wildlife.  
5 Recognizing the position that the governors, their DRBC  
6 designees, and Commission staff have been in over the  
7 last seven years, NPCA applauds the important and  
8 challenging decision that was made to ban fracking in  
9 the Delaware River Basin. NPCA urged the DRBC back in  
10 2011 to hold off on it. Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER:

12 Thank you very much. James Schleppenbach.  
13 With a name like that, this is hard for me. I'm sorry.

14 MR. SCHLEPPENBACH:

15 No problem. Schleppenbach. Appreciate  
16 the opportunity. Yeah. I'm up here as a resident of  
17 Solebury Township up in Bucks County. I'm an organic  
18 farmer. I work with farmers that comprise upwards of  
19 400 acres. And what we're learning about agriculture  
20 and the water supply is that there's a decrease in  
21 ground water recharge because of the way agriculture is  
22 done. This has to do with the water supply and the  
23 health of water in the watershed. Everything that we  
24 do impacts how much water is going back into the base  
25 well, recharging streams, ground water supplies that