

## Norman Starr

The Basin Compact states that, "The ground waters of the Basin shall not contain substances or properties attributable to the activities of man in concentrations or amounts sufficient to endanger or preclude the water uses to be protected. Within this requirement, the ground waters shall be free from substances or properties in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life, or that produce color, taste, or odor of the waters."

Fracking has proved to be a source of water contamination and must be banned in the Basin.

The EPA's 2016 study of fracking concludes that there is scientific evidence that hydraulic fracturing activities can impact drinking water resources under some circumstances, and cites the cases of Dimock, PA, Pavillion, WY, and Parker County, TX (see <https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/hfstudy/recordisplay.cfm?deid=332990>).

Pennsylvania DEP has issued hundreds of Determination Letters that state that fracking has contaminated private water supplies (see <https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/pa-dep-determination-letters/>). In addition, hundreds of property owners whose water has been contaminated have signed non-disclosure agreements (see <https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2013/06/drillers-silence-fracking-claims-with-sealed-settlements/>) in order to get some financial relief from the gas industry. These agreements mask the full extent of water contamination caused by fracking.

In 2015, a study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, detected fracking chemicals in PA drinking water. This study analyzed drinking water sampled from 3 homes in Bradford County, PA and revealed traces of a compound commonly found in Marcellus Shale drilling fluids (see <http://www.pnas.org/content/112/20/6325>).

There are many other examples of fracking contaminating water supplies. I urge the DRBC to enforce the Basin Compact and ban fracking in the Basin.