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In 2010, the DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission) imposed a de facto moratorium on fracking and its related activities in the watershed. As you know, the Commission is composed of the governors from the states of PA, NY, NJ, DE, as well as a federal representative from the Army Corps of Engineers. The oil and gas industry has fought the moratorium since its inception. Late last year, the four governors announced a resolution to issue regulations to permanently ban fracking in the Basin.

Unfortunately, when the DRBC eventually released the draft ban proposed regulations on Nov. 30th, they included regulations which would leave open the possibility of water withdrawals as well as wastewater processing, storage and disposal related to fracking activities occurring outside of the Basin.

It is inconsistent to ban the drilling part of fracking and at the same time to propose regulations that would permit water withdrawals and wastewater disposal related to fracking outside of the Basin. Water used in fracking is taken out of the hydrologic cycle permanently. Wastewater from fracking contains toxic chemicals, many of which are secret, as well as radioactive elements brought to the surface from deep geological formations, elements which cannot be removed, and which last for thousands of years. There are now 'super-sized' wells for fracking which will withdraw more fresh water and produce more wastewater.

I urge you to implement a complete and permanent ban to safeguard the Delaware River's unique and invaluable watershed and thus the health of humans and other life dependent upon it.