impacts on the quality of the basic water. That's not synonymous with no impacts ---.

HEARING OFFICER:

Thank you. Jennifer Coffey would be next. And then Coralie Pryde. And then Clio Gates. I'm sorry. I think I mis-said your name. It's Jennifer Coffey, C-O-F-F-E-Y. Is she present? All right. Then Coralie Pryde would be next. All right. And then after Ms. Pryde would be Clio Gates and Katie Smith.

Okay. When you're ready, ma'am. Thank you.

MS. PRYDE:

I'm Coralie Pryde. And I'm speaking for the League of Women Voters of Delaware. We believe that it is absolutely necessary that the DRBC vigorously protect the waters of the Delaware River.

The watershed supplies drinking water for some 16 million people. It supports a myriad species that create a healthy balance of aquatic life in the Delaware Bay and along the Atlantic coast.

And it directly supports almost $5 billion in annual wages from the region it goes through. In Delaware alone, nearly 16,000 jobs bringing in about $340 million annually are directly dependent on having a clean, healthy Delaware River.

The Delaware League is concerned that the DRBC's draft fracking regulations will protect neither the quantity nor the quality of water in the Delaware. Leaks from fracking present numerous dangers to our precious water and our environment.

More than 1,000

chemicals have been used in fracking in various combinations. Only a few, about 20 percent, have been tested. Many of them are generally poisonous neurotoxins, carcinogens. The others haven't been studied. The identity of many fracking components aren't exposed.

And fracking wastewater also contains hundreds of hazardous materials that are reached deep from within the earth.

The League is particularly concerned of radioactive elements including radium, thorium and uranium are prevalent in Marcellus shale waste.

Because these radioactive elements have a very diverse range of physical and chemical properties, it is

very difficult to separate these from other waste.

There are currently no methods that are economically feasible to purify the two to three million gallons of waste produced in fracking just one large horizontally built well.

Disposal of solids in municipal landfills will inevitably result in contaminating the river. Radium is taken up by micro-organisms, then they are ingested by animals further up the food chain.

For Delaware, this will endanger the health of species as diverse as oysters, and swordfish and great blue herons. If the water is contaminated, the effects on Delaware's economy and the quality of our life will be devastating. Once it is

contaminated it will not be clean again.

HEARING OFFICER:

Thank you, ma'am. Clio Gates will be next. And then Katie Smith. And then Maya Van Rossum. And is this Ms. Gates?

MS. GATES:

Yes.

HEARING OFFICER:

Go ahead.

MS. GATES:

Good afternoon. My name is Clio Gates. And I'm an intern at the National Resources Defense Council. I would like to thank the Commission for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts with you concerning the proposed ban of fracking in the Delaware River Basin.

Over the past several weeks, I've looked closely at the effects of fracking on the