

November 24, 2023 DRBC

I am a retired MD. When I was working I specialized in anesthetic induced heat injury. After leaving that work I study environmental hazards including increasing global heat and increasing scarcity of clean water. I now live in Pennsylvania, although I lived the first 20 years of my life in New Jersey.

Therefore I am very interested in the rules governing the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). proposed rule changes. The Delaware River Watershed is a very important natural resource. As written in the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the people of PA have a right to enjoy the natural and historic resources of their state. This includes the western part off the Delaware River Basin (DRB).

Decisions about land and water use in the DRB, including alterations to waterways, roads and other industrial development, must be made with input from the public, because these decisions will affect the lives of the inhabitants in the DRB, at the least. As our air gets hotter the scarcity of clean water will become more pressing. This makes transparency in decisions regarding the Delaware River Basin much more important. The rules of the DRBC must protect our water and air in the future. Decisions, such as the recent one by the DRBC Executive Director, to approve the extension of the Gibbstown LNG Export Terminal Project, must not be made by one person with no input from the public. An LNG export terminal is a project that will produce more air and water pollution.

The federal Freedom of Information Act must continue to be applicable to the DRBC. The DRBC must provide a prescribed system for public access that is clear, user friendly and affordable for all citizens. Sharing of information should not be controlled by one individual, such as the Executive Director.

