

## Martha Scoppa

I live in Sullivan County and am very concerned about the proposed rule changes to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). I believe the rule changes will severely limit public disclosure and participation, and even bypass our elected representatives, the DRBC commissioners. This is not acceptable. Public disclosure and participation are important to me. I want to follow DRBC decisions and how they will impact my community in the Delaware River Basin, and I want to be able to learn about these issues and speak out if necessary. In the proposed rule changes, the Executive Director is being given far too much authority over many crucial decisions, made behind closed doors, without the public and without a vote by the DRBC Commissioners. I believe the DRBC commissioners expect to be part of decision making and want the same thing as me – to know what is going on.

There are other proposed rule changes that worry me: 1) extension of permits without an expiration date being given favored status, 2) a \$1M "minimum" amount for extension of existing projects that haven't been built, 3) allowing the sponsors of a project to claim that litigation by opposing parties is an excuse that can be used to explain why they haven't built or spent sufficient funds on a project that they want extended, 4) the lack of a clear definition for "material change" and "materially" used throughout the proposed rulemaking, and 5) substituting a DRBS system for requests for access to public records and eliminating the Federal Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

All of these DRBC rule changes are very disturbing to me and I oppose them.