

Commission Secretary, DRBC  
25 State Police Drive  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360  
Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations

RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION  
2011 MAR -3 P 12:09

Dear Carol Collier and DRBC Commissioners:

I am writing to ask you to withdraw the draft regulations for gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed because they are inadequate to cover the acute and cumulative risks to our waters. The public comment period must be extended and expanded to include public hearings in each state, and three hearings in Pennsylvania. There's no hearing in the state of Delaware! This is unconscionable, as gas development upstream will degrade the entire watershed.

I ask that you push the March 16<sup>th</sup> Public Comment deadline back by a minimum of six months and not finalize any regulations for at least two years, in order to take into account the EPA study of deep gas drilling's life cycle impacts on water. Please rewrite the regulations after a Cumulative Impact Study has been completed for the Delaware River watershed. The draft regulations fail to take into account the network of pre-existing fractures deep underground which could convey contaminants slowly into groundwater and surface water. Your Compact mandates that you must "prevent future pollution," but these regulations ignore hydrogeological evidence that high-volume fracturing could create catastrophic future pollution. It also fails to plan for the inevitable degradation of cement casings over time.

Clearly toxic spills to surface waters are frequent in all phases of high-volume hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling. Lawsuits about groundwater contamination are sprouting rapidly in many states, including Pennsylvania and New York. With so many risks, with absolutely no study, and with many unresolved complaints including severe health impacts ranging from asthma and headaches to nosebleeds, nausea, and cancer, it is premature for these regulations to be released, let alone finalized.

I would like to add substantive comments regarding gas drilling waste in the Delaware River watershed (Section 7.6 of the Draft Regulations). One, drilling mud and flowback must be classified as "hazardous waste," because it contains contaminants deadly to biological life. Two, there must be NO IMPOUNDMENTS for flowback anywhere in our watershed; these open, plastic-lined pits are each a Superfund site in the making, and must be completely outlawed. Three, wastes must be tested for NCQO, a potent carcinogen known to show up in flowback as a result of chemical interactions. Four, there must be no discharge of gas drilling waste in the basin. Gas drilling waste puts all our health at risk.

Sincerely,

NAME Mary Lou Hatcher PHONE 610.866.7527  
ADDRESS 925 Prospect Ave Bethlehem PA  
CITY Bethlehem STATE PA ZIP 18018  
EMAIL MLHATCHER55@HOTMAIL.COM

Please see attached - 37 additional names - from Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting (Quakers). Our congregation's social concern is this issue. Unanimously.

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Request to the DRBC Commissioners. February, 2011

Name

Address

Frances Dreisbach 75 Tumble Creek Rd.  
Delva Olson Easton, PA 18042

James Olson Springtown, PA 18051

Joyce Hinnfeld 204 Pine Top Tr., Bethlehem, PA 18017

Bob Rizzo 1113 Prosser Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18018

Ann Ze-Ber 445 maple Rd. Hellertown PA 18018

Paul Rul 212 PORTER STREET, EASTON, PA 18042

Marcy Segel 73 Marshall Run, Northampton, PA 18067

Robert Vogel 73 Marshall Run Northampton, PA 18067

Karen Moore 1421 N New St, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Nan Sel-Pang 911 S. Cottonwood Rd Walmatport, PA 18088

Leon Jander 770 Pine Top Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017

Jan M 770 Pine Top Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017

Cathy Gumlock 109 Berks St. Easton, PA 18045



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Name

Address

EUGENE DEKSTER 444 Willow Rd HELLERTOWN, PA 18035

John M. Adams 360 Valley Park So., Bethlehem, PA 18018

Michelle Melnyk 2220 W. Walnut St Allentown, PA

Stephen S. Ingram 926 Birch Road HELLERTOWN, PA

Lorena N. Young 1420 Calypso Ave. Beth., PA 18018

Edward P. Morgan 925 Prospect Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Nancy Johnston 4410 Fairway Dr Easton, PA 18041

Sally E. Alley 125 N. Main St. Nazareth, PA 18064

Bonnie H. O'Donnell 339 Hanover St. Bethlehem, PA 18018

Tom Mahfield 2595 Dairy Lane, Hellertown, PA 18018

Martha Christine 107 Mt Airy Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18018

Carmen Riggs 1113 Prospect Ave Bethlehem, PA 18018

Annette Benard 734 E. Washington Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18018

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Name

Address

Noelle Schwantz 2447 Yost Rd BATH PA 18014

Jonathan Frey 1320 Retweiler Heller town Pa. 18014

Michael R Barrell 6007 Homestead Rd Crookston PA 18026

Lois Sunflower 2371 W Best Rd, BATH, PA 18014

Anna Maria Marzullo 724 Hamilton St. Easton, PA 18042

~~Clifford~~ Clifford Sunflower 2371 W. Best Rd, BATH, PA 18014

Richard Dow 16 W Washington Ave Bethlehem PA 18018

Kris Thompson 913 Old Bethlehem Rd Haycock PA 18951

Corissa Rolon 433 N. 10th St. Allentown, PA 18102

Faith Shireman 829 Porter St. Easton PA 18042

Sarah Nicklin 4813 Meadowview Ter., Zionsville PA 18092

Mary Lou Hatcher 925 Prospect Ave Bethlehem PA 18018