



**Monmouth County  
League of Women Voters**

P.O. Box 414  
Oakhurst, NJ  
07755

Comments before Delaware River Basin Commission  
Re: Natural Gas Development Regulations  
February 24, 2011

Good afternoon. My name is Marie Curtis. I am Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Monmouth County, New Jersey, a non-partisan political organization that studies and acts on selected issues. Both our concern for environmental protection and for responsive government bring us here today.

The hydrofracking process for natural gas extraction is only now being studied to look at cumulative impacts and by the EPA to determine what, if any, detrimental effects it may have on water quality, water supply, and clean air, not to mention other safety issues. The Delaware is a unique and scenic river, supplying potable water for millions, as well as recreational opportunities and natural beauty. To put this at risk without adequate information as to the result would be acting irresponsibly. The natural gas supply is not going anywhere, so we see no need to rush headlong into this process.

Our concern in Monmouth County is water supply. The 1996 Water Supply Master Plan for New Jersey was not designed to deal with the situation that would occur should the Delaware River be compromised – and it provides one-third of New Jersey residents with drinking water. The Master Plan considers our county to have water resources to spare. In reality, the main reservoir serving our county is severely compromised by siltation and eutrophication, and over 67 nearby residential wells went dry in the drought last fall. We fear that any regulations proposed at this point are premature and lack consideration of cumulative impacts. The sound science needed to back them up has not yet been completed.

We urge the Commission to extend the comment period for another 180 days to allow all affected parties to have their say and participate in the process. We further urge that you put consideration of the regulations “on hold” until the Cumulative Impact Analysis regarding the effects of gas drilling on the Delaware River Basin is done and the EPA has completed their study and issued recommendations for scientifically sound practice.

We recognize the great responsibility that you have in this matter. Please proceed cautiously. We thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.