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Columbia-Greene Rip Van Winkle Chapter 569

RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION

2011 MAR -7 A 11:40

Pamela Bush, Commission Secretary  
DRBC  
P.O. Box 7360  
25 State Police Drive  
West Trenton, NJ 08626

Dear Delaware River Basin Commissioners and Executive Director Collier:

I am writing this in behalf of the Columbia-Greene Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We are a conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the environment. The cold-clean water that is necessary for trout benefits all of us. You will not see us demonstrating with gas masks, you will see us raising funds for youth education and to protect and restore cold water fisheries. You will see us actively cleaning up stream beds, planting trees, stocking fish and restoring habitat damaged by man made and natural disasters. Safe, clean drinking water is the end result of our endeavors.

We support responsible energy development, sound management of the Delaware Basin and truthful dialogue over the risks of Hydrofracking. The Delaware River Basin is a treasure that must be protected.

We feel that the total impact of drilling must be considered before permits are granted. If drilling is safe than why is the New York City Watershed excluded from the areas being considered? Why are other communities not being afforded the same protection?

Last spring the water temperatures in the river rose to an alarming number putting severe pressure on the fish population in the river. Every well will require millions of gallons of water along with sand and a mixture of chemicals to fracture the rock to release natural gas. This will undermine the



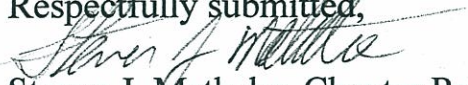
ecosystem of the river basin. Removing water in one area will most likely have an effect the river in another area. The gas companies will use a variety of chemicals to deal with the differing rock structures. They refuse to even release any information about the basic chemicals being used. How can we assess the potential damage to the ground water? Along with this concern is the fact that New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will have fewer resources to monitor this threat and the industry's concern for profit.

Recent reports of drilling waste containing corrosive salts, radioactive material and carcinogens are alarming and increase our skepticism. Most wells will have 1,000,000 gallons of waste water and this puts great pressure on waste water treatment facilities. A recent E.P.A. study (2009) that was not released to the public concludes that some treatment plants were violating law because they were unable to remove all contaminants.

How can "fast tracking" the approval of drilling permits guarantee that our drinking water and the ecosystem is safeguarded?

In these tough economic times the short term tax revenue, job creation and profit is very attractive. You must ask yourselves if the short term gain is worth the potential for catastrophic ecological disaster and expense in the future?

Respectfully submitted,

  
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