

SHEPSTONE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, Inc.

100 Fourth Street, Suite 32, Honesdale, PA 18431

(570) 251-9550

FAX 251-9551

Planning and Research Consultants

mail@shepstone.net

www.shepstone.net

Thomas J. Shepstone

March 2, 2010

Paula.Schmitt
DRBC Commission Secretary
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Re: Stone Energy Natural Gas Applications, Dockets D-2009-13-1 and D-2009-18-1

I fully support the two Stone Energy applications before your Commission at this time. The Delaware River Basin Commission has not tackled this issue in the expeditious and fair manner it deserves. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission has managed to address it promptly and with full consideration of all the economic and environmental interests involved.

A comparison of the Comprehensive Plans for the two Commissions illustrates the SRBC has carefully balanced various community interests and created a procedure that has allowed the exploration and recovery of this invaluable natural resource, while the DRBC appears to have become captive to narrow environmental special interests. I hope the Stone Energy applications provide the opportunity for the DRBC to finally establish the long overdue process to allow responsible exploration and recovery of natural gas to go forward.

I further hope DRBC will reject the groundless speculation of environmental issues surrounding the drilling process. The precautionary principle environmental radicals would impose on the process is a recipe for paralysis that our economy and nation's energy independence can ill afford. Technology is rapidly solving what few environmental issues exist and we can surrender our future to fear.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. SHEPSTONE