



**For Immediate Release:**  
September 7, 2017

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**BREAKING:**  
**Statement from Delaware Riverkeeper Network**  
**Delaware River Basin Commission Proposes Fracking Ban in Watershed**

Delaware Riverkeeper Network applauds and wholeheartedly supports a complete and permanent ban on gas drilling and fracking in the Delaware River Watershed. We have been fighting long and hard for the temporary moratorium on drilling and fracking to be transformed into a permanent ban based on the overwhelming evidence that it simply cannot be done safely and is not compatible with the protection of the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed, despite any regulations that the Commission would adopt.

Since 2010 the DRBC has prohibited natural gas extraction projects in the Delaware River Basin while they study its potential impacts on water resources, a *de-facto* moratorium that does not allow permits to be issued until natural gas regulations are adopted. The DRBC almost adopted regulations in 2011 but its voting members cancelled the meeting where the vote would have occurred amid overwhelming public opposition. Since that time, the DRBC has been studying drilling and fracking issues and regulations.

“Proposing a ban on drilling and fracking the Delaware River watershed demonstrates the kind of wisdom and leadership we need from our elected and agency representatives. The water resources of our watershed are irreplaceable. Without clean and healthy waterways we don’t have the water we need to drink, the healthy nature that protects us from floods and drought, or the healthy economies we need locally or regionally. Advancing a ban on fracking in our watershed is an important step that should be mirrored in all states across the nation where this devastating practice continues. Clean energy options can fulfill our energy needs, there is no other source for the water we need,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network which has been advancing the call for a ban on fracking since 2008.

“The Delaware River Basin Commission is commencing the process to adopt a drilling and fracking ban that is critically needed in order to protect the Delaware River Watershed and the 17 million people that rely

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on the river for drinking water. The news that the Commission members are starting this process in earnest demonstrates commitment on their part to fulfill their responsibilities and it shows the power and fortitude of the public who has fought so hard and long to keep the Delaware frack-free. The timing is critical to get a ban in place, to stop the expansion of drilling, as we face mounting environmental and climate challenges here and across the globe that are exacerbated by gas and other fossil fuel development,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

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