



For Immediate Release

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Legal Action Filed to Protect Delaware River From Drilling/Fracking

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network Files to Intervene in Lawsuit to Protect
DRBC Drilling Moratorium**

West Trenton, NJ: Seeking to defend the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) drilling moratorium in the Delaware River Basin, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) today (July 5, 2016) filed to intervene in Wayne Land and Mineral Group's (WLMG) legal action against the DRBC. The case, which challenges the legal authority of the DRBC to regulate shale gas well pads within the boundaries of the Delaware River Watershed (DRW), is the latest move by drilling advocates to advance construction of dangerous drilling wells, negatively impacting the water resources of the Delaware River watershed. The DRN's intervention supports the DRBC's contention that it has authority to impose and advance the moratorium.

"The WLMG lawsuit seeks to advance drilling and fracking in our watershed to the detriment of tens of millions who rely upon a healthy Delaware River system, and it does so by seeking to fundamentally disempower the DRBC and its ability to protect our water resources from such dangerous industrial operations," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the regional nonprofit organization, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has long worked to ensure the DRBC protects the best interests of the communities in our watershed; it is vital that we intervene and defend against this specious and unjust lawsuit."

The case challenges the legal authority of the DRBC to implement a moratorium on shale gas extraction within the Delaware River Watershed while it decides how or if the quality of the Delaware River, a drinking water supply for 17 million people and an economic driver for the region, can be protected if drilling, fracking and all its associated activities are permitted by the DRBC. The case was filed in U.S.

District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania on May 17, 2016 by the Wayne Land and Mineral Group.

“Given the clearly demonstrated impacts of drilling and fracking for gas, the DRBC’s authority over shale gas extraction is legally clear and strong. By intervening, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will continue our decades long work to defend our watershed and protect our communities. We will not allow our health and safety to be sacrificed for the economic goals of the drilling industry,” van Rossum stated.

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[Delaware Riverkeeper Network \(DRN\)](#) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the 4 states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.