



For Immediate Release:

February 19, 2010

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Citizens Journey Up-River as Threat of Natural Gas Fracking Looms in the Delaware

Delaware Valley, PA A bus load of concerned citizens will leave the Philadelphia area around noon on Wed, Feb 24th and head up river and over three hours away from their homes to make their voice heard about concerns they have about natural gas fracking exploration beginning in the Upper Delaware. (Free seats are available on the bus.) Along the way, they will stop in the Lehigh Valley to pick up more concerned residents who live first hand with the destruction and legacy pollution of acid polluted streams left behind by PA's last boom mined by the profiting coal industry.

Flash forward decades and now Pennsylvania is being threatened by another fossil fuel industry that wants to mine ancient non-renewable reserves from the Earth – natural gas. This time instead of anthracite coal, this industry is using hydraulic fracturing to break up shale and telling local residents and the agencies, not to worry. Hydraulic-fracturing involves a cocktail of dangerous chemicals and sand and an enormous amount of water and high pressure process to capture the natural gas which lies sometimes over a mile below the Earth's surface trapped in a layer of Marcellus shale. The numbers of wells have been staggering as the boom moved into the state and pollution problems have been encountered in nearby wells and streams where drilling has taken place in Pennsylvania and beyond. Wastewater treatment and safe discharges are also a huge concern as the remaining vast amounts of brine wastewater carries with it high levels of salts and other pollution that can threaten aquatic life and drinking water supplies.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) hearing on Wednesday, February 24th is about Stone Energy's proposal to withdraw up to 21.0 mg/30 days (0.70 mgd) of water from the West Branch Lackawaxen River in Wayne County, PA. The Lackawaxen was named the Commonwealth's 2010 River of the Year by Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). It is also classified as Special Protection Waters (SPW) by the Delaware River Basin Commission. The water taken from the Lackawaxen would be used by Stone Energy to hydro-frack a well located in Clinton Township and other future wells they plan to drill in the SPW drainage. Vast amounts of flow-back wastewater from the well are proposed to be exported to treatment facilities located outside of the Delaware River Basin. "Much of the Marcellus shale is beneath the cleanest and purest streams of the Delaware River. These tributary streams are the life force of the main stem Delaware and home to unique and diverse species that have become rare or are even non-existent from much of the watershed. These clean streams, surrounded by forests and natural areas, help cleanse the water that flows to the Delaware which serves as drinking water for 15 million people," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Downstream residents that rely on this clean water for their families and enjoy the beauty of the Upper Delaware, are taking to the road and urging DRBC to protect this clean water from industry harms. There are still seats available on the bus. Bus stops likely Bensalem, Plymouth Meeting and Easton areas. For more details on the trip contact 215-369-1188 ext. 110 or email faith@delawareriverkeeper.org. For more information on shale gas drilling visit www.delawareriverkeeper.org.

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