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**Groups Call on Governor Christie to Safeguard the Public,  
Protect Drinking Water and Promote Clean Energy**  
***Governor Criticized for Promoting Fracking,  
Dangerous Pipelines and Dirty Energy***

*Trenton, NJ* – Environmental groups called on Governor Chris Christie today to safeguard the public and stand up for clean drinking water for the residents of New Jersey through the support of clean energy sources. The groups criticized the Governor's promotion of natural gas as an energy source in the State's Energy Master Plan and outlined how this misplaced choice is putting the safety of residents of the State at risk and jeopardizing the drinking water for New Jersey's 8.8 million people.

Governor Christie is a voting member of the ***Delaware River Basin Commission*** (DRBC), the interstate/federal agency responsible for the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed, along with the Governors of the four states that drain to the Delaware River (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) and a federal representative (the Army Corps of Engineers). The DRBC will be meeting on November 21 at the War Memorial in Trenton to vote on proposed natural gas regulations that, if approved, would lift the current drilling moratorium in the Delaware Basin. Hundreds of people are expected to turn out in protest, insisting the DRBC must conduct a comprehensive environmental study, including an environmental impact analysis, on how fracking and drilling would impact the Watershed. The Wild and Scenic Delaware River supplies drinking water to over 15 million people, including New York City, Philadelphia and Trenton.

The groups called on Governor Christie to consider the full effect of gas development on New Jersey if drilling and fracking were to commence in the Upper and Middle Delaware River Watershed. In addition to the direct effect on the 3 million

people in New Jersey who get their water from the Delaware, these include: the proliferation of natural gas pipelines across the State to carry shale gas to market; the threat of the import to the State's discharge facilities of highly contaminated wastewater they are not equipped to treat, resulting in pollution to our rivers and water supplies and the threat of the import of toxic residue from gas waste processing and toxic-laden drill cuttings to landfills that are not designed to contain hazardous waste (due to an exemption that classifies hazardous substances produced by natural gas drilling as non-hazardous); the threat of a raid on New Jersey's water to feed the need for water-intensive fracking; and renewed interest in Liquefied Natural Gas facilities to export gas to foreign buyers. Also, the Utica Shale, which underlies the Marcellus Shale, is being explored now by energy companies in New York and Pennsylvania, threatening expansion of drilling in the northwestern part of the State where the Utica is located.

"The only way to protect New Jersey's residents and water supply is for Governor Christie to oppose gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed. We and thousands of New Jerseyans are telling him "Don't Drill the Delaware" through New Jersey voting 'no' on the gas rules and 'no' on lifting the DRBC's drilling moratorium," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "The costs to the State are simply too great to allow this polluting and water consumptive industry to spread into our communities and irreplaceable water source", concluded Carluccio.

Fracking creates a glut of natural gas in Pennsylvania that drillers want moved to high-priced East Coast markets. To export that fracked gas, companies are requesting new and expanded pipeline projects across New Jersey's public lands, environmentally sensitive areas, and residential communities. These projects also call for new or upgraded compressor stations, increasing toxic air and climate change pollution in our state. Pipeline explosions across the country have caused people to be killed and property destroyed. Right now there are four projects being proposed in New Jersey at the federal level and more are expected with the continued expansion of fracking in the Marcellus Shale.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company** (TGP) has proposed two projects that devastate public land and impact drinking water supplies in the Highlands Preservation area of Sussex, Passaic, and Bergen Counties. The **300 Line project** has already received federal approvals and is under construction. Waterways along the project have been destroyed due to heavy erosion and flooding has increased in surrounding areas. The pipeline crosses through Walkill National Wildlife Refuge, Newark watershed lands, Wawayanda State Park, and Long Pond Ironworks State Park.

Close to 50% of TGP's second project, the **Northeast Upgrade**, is located on publically owned land. The pipeline will crossover and destroy portions of the Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Ringwood State Park, and Ramapo County Reservation. The pipeline route is expected to impact the northern portion of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area where it would cross the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Drinking water supplies could be jeopardized as the pipeline will cross under the River and the Monksville Reservoir in Wanaque, potentially impacting over 5 million state residents.

**Transcontinental Pipeline Company** is proposing the **Northeast Supply Link** project which includes installing a new pipeline in Hunterdon County, increasing the pressure in their existing pipeline in Essex, Passaic, Hudson, and Bergen Counties, and expanding their compressor station in Roseland, New Jersey next to county open space. This project crosses the Highlands and the Meadowlands and travels underneath the South Branch of the Raritan River which supplies clean drinking water to approximately one million people. The area where the pipe travels underneath the Raritan is preserved open space and critical habitat to a number of threatened or endangered species. On some properties the new pipeline will be less than 50 feet away from people's homes.

The proposed **Spectra Energy Pipeline** will go through the state's most densely populated communities, Bayonne, Jersey City and off the shore of Hoboken into New York City. This area is already burdened with excessive pollution and adding this pipeline will put residents at risk and degrade the public health and the environment of this area. Construction is proposed on contaminated sites. The pipeline will impact freshwater wetlands, water bodies, and other environmental sensitive areas.

"Show us the need for these pipeline expansions! Show us the factories that are closing and jobs lost for lack of inexpensive natural gas. Show us the moral equivalent of war to justify the rape of the land and the spoiling of our waters. And the water of generations to come," said Nancy Rumore of Fight the Pipe, an organization opposing the Transcontinental Pipeline Company's Northeast Supply Link.

If all four of these gas pipelines are approved they will increase the capacity of New Jersey's pipeline system by 25%. In-state natural gas demand is increasing at much lower levels than previously projected, less than one percent a year. If that increase in demand remains constant, New Jersey would not need this expanded capacity until 2038 - 27 years from now. Governor Christie has not opposed any of the proposed gas pipeline expansion projects.

"There are more impacts from fracking on New Jersey than we realize, threatening our water, air, and open spaces. Marcellus Shale development not only

threatens the water supply for 3 million New Jersey residents but will also push pipelines through environmentally sensitive areas and create more air pollution in New Jersey through new fossil fuel plants. It is not only bad for our environment but dangerous, whether it is wells being polluted or pipelines going through densely populated areas,” said Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club.

“We need Governor Christie to stand up for New Jersey and stop the DRBC rules from going forward. We can either ship our money to gas drillers in Pennsylvania or keep our money in New Jersey to create green jobs and clean energy,” said Jeff Tittel.

Adding to these burdens, the **Governor’s 10-year Energy Master Plan** for New Jersey, if implemented, would significantly increase the state’s reliance upon natural gas as an energy source, increasing the fall-out of costs for residents. The Christie plan promotes construction of several new natural-gas fired power plants, recommends pipelines to import gas from out of state, and even goes so far as to recommend incentives for natural gas-powered cars and trucks. In addition, the plan explicitly assumes that the state’s increased gas demand will be met by fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale, and touts this as a benefit to New Jersey, given the abundance of shale gas in Pennsylvania.

“The Christie energy plan will increase New Jersey’s unhealthy reliance on fossil fuels, and mean even more pollution for our state,” said Matt Elliott, Clean Energy Advocate for Environment New Jersey. “It hooks our energy future to fracked Marcellus Shale gas for decades to come, and ignores the very significant environmental and public health consequences of such a move. The Christie plan proposes billions of dollars of subsidies for natural gas infrastructure, when our scarce resources should be going toward reducing energy demand by making our buildings more efficient, and promoting truly clean, renewable energy sources that generate electricity without creating a drop of pollution.”

Advocates pointed to further evidence that Governor Christie clearly wants to use more polluting shale gas in New Jersey. In January, the Governor chose to promote fossil fuels over clean energy and the public health of New Jersey residents by signing a bill to subsidize **the construction of three new natural gas generation plants with taxpayer dollars**. The legislation was a handout to special interest groups and a \$2 billion energy tax on the residents of New Jersey.

Under this proposal at least 3 natural gas plants will get subsidies. One will be built by Hess Corporation in the Ironbound section of Newark. The community is already overburdened with pollution, having some of the worst air quality in the nation. Hess is a major driller in the Marcellus Shale region, holding over half a million acres in

leases in Pennsylvania. The other proposals are in Old Bridge and Woodbridge by companies with connections to natural gas drillers. New Jersey taxpayers will be subsidizing natural gas polluters over clean and renewable energy sources.

“The gas industry is looking for taxpayer handouts for gas power plants that will create artificial demand for their dirty polluting practices at the same time many of these companies are avoiding federal taxes and posting huge profits,” said Karina Wilkinson, Regional Organizer for Food & Water Watch.

In addition to direct subsidies that the industry wants, water and air pollution can also lead to a litany of costs that advocates claim would hit New Jersey residents directly in their pocketbooks.

The DRBC announced it will post on November 7 on its website [www.state.nj.us/drbc/](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/) the “modified” gas regulations it is going to consider adopting at the November 21 meeting, but the agency is not accepting any public comments on the revised regulations, despite the outpouring of public interest in the issue. 69,800 comments were received by the DRBC from the public on the draft gas rules during its public comment period that closed April 15, 2011, breaking all previous records for public involvement. There has been a cloak of secrecy about what changes are expected and the intentions of the voting members are not clear.

"Enough is enough. The DRBC is keeping us in the dark on these changes just as industry is keeping us in the dark on the toxics they'd purposely put in our water supplies. If public input means anything to these folks, they'll let us know what's going on and let us comment. Common sense dictates you don't let Exxon dump its secret toxic formula into water supplies but that's just what's been proposed. The benefits are too little and the risks too great. Will Governor Christie reject the people, thousands of whom have weighed in, to stand by Big Oil?" said Dave Pringle, Campaign Director, NJ Environmental Federation.

The groups are calling for a large turnout at the DRBC's public meeting to be held from 10:00 am to noon on Monday, November 21 at the War Memorial in Trenton, NJ. Gathering at 7:30 am, a line will form for those who want to attend the meeting. There is a protest and march planned. People are expected from throughout the Delaware River Watershed from a wide variety of constituency groups. Actions that can be taken now, overnight accommodations the night before 11/21, bus information and other details are available at: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=93> and <http://bit.ly/Nov21Travel>  
Video Series: The Truth about Gas Drilling can be seen on <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?Id=10>

More is available on Josh Fox's video about the meeting at [www.savethedelawareriver.org](http://www.savethedelawareriver.org)

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