

Press Statement- For Immediate Release

December 7, 2022

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network Statement on DRBC Fracking Vote *Full Ban on Fracking Missed*

West Trenton, NJ, Delaware River Watershed region: Today, December 7, 2022, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) proposed and adopted amendments to its regulations in order to address to what degree wastewater from fracking operations could be imported into the Delaware River watershed for any reason and/or use, and to address to what degree water could be withdrawn and exported from the Delaware River watershed to support fracking operations elsewhere.

Much to the chagrin of the nearly 100 individuals and organizations who attended the meeting to learn of the decision and its details, the DRBC refused to provide an advance release of the proposed resolution that was amended and adopted during the meeting, thereby preventing meaningful substantive comment. Despite the assertions of Executive Director Steve Tambini, significant modifications adopted today were not publicly released at any point prior to the meeting for public review and comment – significant changes to the proposed rules that were the subject of public comment were offered and adopted only at the meeting without any advance public review or release.

“The Delaware Riverkeeper Network recognizes that there have been important modifications to the wastewater and withdrawal regulations that were adopted today; and yet the Delaware River Basin Commission did leave in place significant loopholes that leave our watershed at risk from toxic frack wastewater that can be brought into our watershed for treatment, storage, disposal, use and/or reuse; and will continue to allow withdrawals of watershed water to support fracking elsewhere. The ramifications of these gaping loopholes leave our watershed in peril from serious and irreversible damage due to the fracking industry, and allow our watershed to be complicit in advancing fracking outside our watershed sacrificing communities, waterways, ecosystems and our climate to this devastating and unnecessary industry,” **stated Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

“From what we can tell from the meeting, DRBC did not ban outright the import of wastewater produced by fracking or the export of water from the Watershed for fracking. This is the bright

line we need to provide the needed protection our watershed and our communities require. Radioactive and highly toxic fracking wastewater must be kept out of the watershed completely to prevent air emissions and other pollution releases that endanger the water supply of 17 million people and the health of our Delaware River Watershed,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

Delaware Riverkeeper Network will be examining the final adopted rule using the necessary scientific, legal, environmental, and human health perspectives these decisions require.

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