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Full Frack Ban Vote on Second Anniversary of DRBC Resolution
Delaware River Watershed Governors called upon to carve a total frack ban in stone at DRBC public meeting 9.11.19

West Windsor, NJ – People will speak out during the public comment period at the September 11th Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) public meeting at [The Conference Center at Mercer](#), Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd., West Windsor, N.J. It has been two years since the DRBC Commissioners voted to ban fracking in the Delaware River Watershed and the public is clamoring for a final vote to fully ban fracking, frack waste, and the withdrawal of Delaware River water for fracking. The question is: What is taking so long? The public says: Two years is too long! Call the vote!

Representatives of advocacy groups from throughout the region are calling for the Commissioners to vote as soon as possible to adopt a full ban on fracking throughout the Delaware River Watershed, including banning the treatment, storage and disposal of wastewater produced by fracking, and banning the export of water from the Watershed to enable fracking elsewhere. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Delaware Governor John Carney, have all publicly pledged to vote for the full ban but Governor Andrew Cuomo has kept silent.

“It is time for DRBC to listen to the science and learn from the mistakes of the states and communities where fracking has been allowed to happen; to learn that fracking, its toxic wastewater and its massive water withdrawals inflict irreparable harm on our waterways, environments and communities. It is time to enact a full ban on fracking, frack wastewater imports and the water exports that would be used to sacrifice

other waterways and communities to this devastating industry. And we cannot ignore that allowing any aspect of the fracking industry to advance in our watershed would make the DRBC complicit in the worldwide devastation being caused by climate change," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the regional Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"Every day that goes by before the DRBC votes for a full fracking ban is another day the Delaware River is at risk. Therefore, we are saying to the DRBC to stand up and protect our river and put in a full fracking ban now. Three of the Governors have called for a full ban, including Governor Murphy. The time is now! We have waited two years for the commissioners to vote. They must vote to have a complete fracking ban," **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.**

"Scientific data is telling us we have less time to act on climate than we thought; and over the last two years, tens of thousands of people have already spoken out in support of the strongest protections possible for the Delaware River. Fully protecting the Delaware River Basin from fracking and all fracking activities should have already been a slam dunk win for everyone, including politicians, scientists, and the general public. What are we waiting for?" **said Eric Benson, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action NJ.**

"Why are we still waiting on the DRBC to do the right thing and pass a complete ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin? Enough is enough," **said Food & Water Action organizer Junior Romero.** "Nothing less than the protection of clean drinking water for millions of people is at stake. Banning fracking in the basin is just the first step; we must also stop the practice of allowing fracking corporations to take clean water from the Delaware, pollute it with contaminants, and then return it for us to drink. We need the strongest protections in place to protect our air, land, and water: That means a ban on fracking, a ban on water withdrawals, and a ban on fracking waste."

"Fracking drillers remain waiting at the edge of the Delaware River watershed, ready to start fracking and disposing of fracking waste. Over the last two years, more than 100,000 people have called on the DRBC to move to fully ban fracking and fracking waste. It's time for the DRBC to vote on approving a full fracking ban and a fracking waste ban in the watershed," **said Doug O'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey.** "The dangers of the fracking industry are clear and it's time the DRBC took a stand to fully ban the fracking industry from our watershed. The time to vote is now," said O'Malley.

"Governor Carney has joined three other DRBC Commissioners in publicly supporting a ban on ALL fracking activities in the Delaware River Basin. It's long past time for the Commission to hold a formal vote!" **said Coralie Pryde, spokesperson, Delaware Sierra Club.**

"That the DRBC would consider allowing these wastes into the Delaware River Basin in order to "regulate" them is short-sighted and a false economy of effort. It is always better to prevent pollution rather than attempt to clean up afterwards. Because of the unregulated nature of these materials how would the DRBC know what and how much wastes are coming into the Basin in order to "regulate" their transport and

disposal. The DRBC is asking for the Illegal dumping and trucking accidents that happen regularly in areas near drilling. We depend on the DRBC to keep the Delaware River Basin healthy. The wastes should not be allowed into the Basin,” **said B. Arrindell, Director of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.**

“The fracking industry is aggressive and domineering everywhere it goes. Witness what has occurred in the communities that are being fracked in Pennsylvania and other shale plays. DRBC has the unique authority to completely prohibit fracking and frack waste dumping and water exports for fracking to save our water and watershed. They also have the responsibility to do so, which is what we are all saying with one voice – Ban Fracking and its activities in the Delaware River Basin and do it now, while the DRBC Commissioners are saying they want to,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

Take note of the video that was tweeted to Governor Cuomo this past Monday, calling on him to join the full frack ban vote at the DRBC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaGOADiOr2o&feature=youtu.be>

Background:

Draft hydraulic fracturing regulations were proposed in November 2017 with a public comment period that closed March 31, 2018. No public action has been taken by DRBC since then. Within the last two years, many reports have been published about harms to public health (see the FracTracker health report here: <https://bit.ly/30kqe4u> and the Compendium 6th Edition here: <https://bit.ly/2jXm2ra>). Additionally, studies exposing the role of natural gas/methane in speeding up the warming of the atmosphere and the resulting climate crisis have been publicized, making the case for swift action to ban all aspects of fracking all the more pressing. (See the UN report here: <https://bit.ly/2IOH2bK>; and the Delaware River Basin looks as if it is heating up due to climate change faster than most other watersheds according to a recent analysis in the Washington Post: <https://wapo.st/2KxIPFN>) Industry interests are looming at the Watershed’s door.

The Governors of the four states that flow to the Delaware River – New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware – voted in September 2017 to draft gas regulations that would ban fracking throughout the watershed lands in all four states. The draft regulations were issued in 2017 and the comment period closed in March 2018. Fracking was proposed to be banned but the regulations would allow frack wastewater to be dumped in the Delaware River Watershed and Delaware River water to be exported for fracking out of the basin. It is not logical to ban fracking but allow the pollution and water resource depletion caused by fracking to occur anyway.

Tens of thousands of people have been calling for the Governors, whom are the voting members of the DRBC along with the federal representative from the Army Corps, to enact a full ban on fracking, frack wastewater imports and water exports to fuel fracking elsewhere. This is essential to protect the water resources of the Delaware River for the millions that rely upon our watershed for drinking water, public health, recreation, economic prosperity and healthy ecosystems, and to help in the international effort to protect present and future generations from the devastating ravages of climate change.

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