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**Secret Chemicals Used in Fracking Endanger Public Health and
Drinking Water in Pennsylvania and Delaware River Watershed**
New Research Report Documents Widespread Use of Potentially Toxic Chemicals

Trenton, New Jersey - A new report, "Keystone Secrets: Records Show Widespread Use of Secret Fracking Chemicals Is a Looming Risk for Delaware River Basin, Pennsylvania Communities", by Dusty Horwitt of the Massachusetts-based Partnership for Policy Integrity (PFPI) provides even stronger evidence for a COMPLETE ban on fracking and its activities in the Delaware River Basin, several environmental groups said at a news conference today. The comprehensive report, released yesterday by PFPI, documents that drilling companies have extensively used loopholes in Pennsylvania rules that allow companies to withhold chemical identities as trade secrets. The report includes an analysis of fracking chemical disclosure data by Pennsylvania-based FracTracker Alliance. The report is available here:
<http://www.pfpi.net/secret-fracking-chemicals-threaten-delaware-river-basin-pennsylvania>

Drilling companies employ secret chemicals to frack gas and oil wells, keeping the ingredients of fracking formulas hidden, claiming Trade Secret protections. Regulations at the federal and state level allow for the information about the chemicals injected into drilled wells to be kept from the public and, in some cases, even from emergency responders and regulatory agencies.

According to the report's findings, drilling companies injected secret fracking chemicals 13,632 times into 2,515 "unconventional" gas wells in Pennsylvania, between

2013 and 2017, primarily in Marcellus and Utica shale formations. At least one hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) chemical with an identity kept hidden from the public - and an average of more than five secret fracking chemical injections each - was injected into the 2,515 unconventional natural gas wells drilled in the state, amounting to 55 percent of the more than 4,500 unconventional gas wells drilled during the five-year period.

“Allowing fracking and related activities in the Delaware River Basin would be a huge gamble with people’s health and drinking water” **said Dusty Horwitt of the Partnership for Policy Integrity (PFPI)**. “People might be unknowingly exposed to the secret and potentially toxic chemicals routinely used in fracking. The Delaware River Basin Commission should take a clear stand against fracking and fracking wastewater disposal.”

“This report clearly shows that what we don’t know will hurt us, affecting the drinking supply for 17 million people. This is an alarm bell going off on how our water supply and public health is threatened by the secret chemicals used in fracking. These companies use the excuse of trade secrets to hide from the public and first responders the different types of toxic chemicals. We can’t treat what we don’t know so this creates a hidden danger to communities exposed to fracking and fracking waste,” **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club**. “It’s more important than ever for the DRBC to ban fracking as well as fracking waste to protect the people and environment of this Valley. We need Governor Murphy to stand with us to keep these dangerous chemicals the frack out of our water.”

"The danger of fracking and fracking waste isn't exaggerated. This report exposes what the fracking industry doesn't want you to know --- the secret sauce of fracking is directly linked to serious health risks including harm to the liver, developmental and neurotoxins impacts. Fracking's chemicals are a direct and silent attack on the body's health and there's no reason we should be letting these chemicals anywhere near New Jersey's waters," **said Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey**. "This report should be a wake-up call to the DRBC and Gov. Murphy, who serves as the DRBC Chair, that we need to be crystal clear that the DRBC must ban fracking and fracking waste in the entire Delaware River watershed."

"There's no longer any room for doubt. This report proves that nothing the fracking industry hides from us is benign. The fact is fracking wastewater is 100% toxic, and that there is absolutely no safe way to regulate, treat, or dispose of it. It is up to the DRBC and their chair, Governor Murphy, to make sure that the fracking industry doesn't get it hands on the precious resource that is the Delaware River Basin. Just as the fracking industry does not wish to disclose their 'chemical cocktail' recipe, we do not wish to place a dollar amount on the lives of the 15 million people who rely on the Delaware for their drinking water. Our watershed and our health are not for sale. We are

calling on the DRBC and their chair, Governor Murphy, to not allow fracking wastewater to enter our watershed. Ban fracking 100%, now," **said Alyssa Bradley, Energy Organizer, Clean Water Action.**

"Government officials entrusted with protecting the health and safety of our lives and our environment are not entitled to turn a blind eye to the hazards their actions create. But, as this report well demonstrates, that is exactly what the DRBC and the basin states will be doing if they pass their proposed regulation that allows the importation of toxic frack wastewater for storage and disposal in our watershed. But our watershed communities are rising up and turning out to defend ourselves against this looming threat and to hold government accountable for taking responsible protective action; we will not stand for ourselves or others becoming part of the fracking sacrifice zone," **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"We already know that fracking is a danger to our air, our water and our climate. This new report shows that secret fracking chemicals are being used at an astonishing rate in Pennsylvania, which means fracking could be even more dangerous than we thought. The only responsible course of action is a full ban on all fracking-related activities in the Delaware River watershed. Without a complete ban, the health and safety of millions of people who rely on the basin as a source of drinking water will be put at risk. The governors who wield power at the DRBC must take immediate action to protect a source of clean water for millions of residents from the dangers of fracking waste," **said Lena Smith, Food & Water Watch Senior Organizer.**

"The 'Keystone Secrets' report is shocking in its exposure of the widespread use of secret chemicals by fracking companies in Pennsylvania. These companies use toxic chemicals that are kept secret to serve their own bottom line while handicapping the ability to protect people and the environment. We know the harmful health effects are overwhelming communities where fracking is occurring and it must be stopped and not allowed to advance further into the Delaware River Watershed. It is the responsibility of the DRBC Commissioners to examine the report's findings and heed the warning by banning fracking and frack wastewater within the Delaware River Basin," **said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

"Though it is true that on the federal level Bush-Cheney's 2005 Energy Policy Act exempted oil and gas production from the requirements to report potential toxic releases, the states including Pennsylvania, can require what the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act requires from other industries. Loading the deck in favor of gas and oil companies doesn't fulfill the state's obligation to protect the health of Pennsylvania citizens. This secret chemical report "Keystone Secrets", reveals how bad

the situation really is,” **said Barbara Arrindell, Director of Damascus Citizen for Sustainability.**

“Ten years ago when the fracking boom started there was outrage by people and communities; they could not believe that industry was claiming trade secrets and using the Halliburton loophole to hide what toxins we were potentially being exposed to. Ten years later and the industry is still lying and hiding what they are releasing into our communities and waterways. This sends a loud and clear message to the Delaware River Basin Commission. The gas industry cannot be trusted and we won't know what is being discharged into the Delaware, therefore we should have a complete ban on fracking wastewater and treatment facilities. How many times do we get harmed? It is time to protect people not industry,” **said Wes Gillingham, Associate Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper.**

“Figuring out how to remove hundreds of toxic chemicals from hundreds of millions of gallons of water is extremely difficult. When you don't even know what some of the chemicals are, it's impossible. Allowing fracking waste into the Delaware River basin has the potential to disrupt the ecology of the Delaware River and threatens the huge environmental and economic benefits the Delaware River and Bay bring to our entire region,” **said Coralie Pryde, Conservation Chair, Delaware Sierra Club.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified concerns about the health and environmental effects of dozens of the chemicals used in fracking, many of them most likely being used under the cloak of “Trade Secrets”. Organizations such as the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, as well as scientists and academic institutions have documented that people who live in areas where fracking for gas and oil is occurring have experienced health problems consistent with EPA's concerns. Hiding the identities of fracking chemicals being used and released into the environment allows people to be exposed unknowingly. In some cases, even emergency responders, health professionals or state agencies would not be able to access information on fracking chemical identities. Additionally, without knowing the chemicals in use, successful processing and treatment of frack waste is extremely difficult and the potential health effects cannot be forecast or effectively controlled.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has proposed to ban fracking in the Delaware River Watershed but allow the treatment and discharge within the Basin of fracking wastewater produced elsewhere, as well as water to be exported for fracking outside of the Basin. Any discharges of wastewater would be likely to include some of these secret fracking chemicals since they are being used heavily in Susquehanna County, next door to the Delaware River Watershed. The groups discussed their grave concerns that fracking and frack wastewater would expose 15 to 17 million people who

get their drinking water from the Delaware to frack waste and frack fluid pollution and the associated adverse health effects.

The organizations highlighting the report today, along with members of the public, will attend the DRBC meeting tomorrow, September 13, 2018, to comment directly to the Commissioners about the report's findings and the looming threat this represents should fracking and frack wastewater not be fully banned throughout the Delaware River Watershed.

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