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Organizations Clamor for FULL Frack Ban on December 7

DRBC to consider resolution to amend fracking related rules at upcoming meeting

The public insists: NO fracking wastewater imports, NO water exports for fracking!

Delaware River Watershed – Organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members are calling on the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to vote for a COMPLETE ban on fracking wastewater imports and the export of water from the Delaware River Watershed for fracking when the Commissioners consider a highly-anticipated resolution that has been added to the agenda of the [DRBC's December 7 Business Meeting](#).

The [draft fracking wastewater/water rules were proposed in October 2021](#) and a public comment period closed in February 2022. Nearly 12,000 people submitted comments to the DRBC during that time, virtually all calling for the FULL fracking ban. DRBC has posted that a resolution to amend the regulations will be considered at the December 7 public meeting. The wording of the resolution has not been disclosed, setting watershed communities on edge.

Since the agenda posting on November 22, members of the [public have been flooding faxes, emails, and social media messages in to the DRBC's voting members](#) - the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and the Army Corps of Engineers, representing President Biden – with a loud and clear statement: “Revise the proposed fracking regulations to ban the import of wastewater produced by fracking and ban the export of water from our watershed that would fuel fracking in other watersheds!”

A public [sign on letter](#) submitted last month to DRBC calling for the FULL fracking ban was resubmitted yesterday, Dec. 5 to all DRBC Commissioners, with additional signatories. In total, 191 organizations and 7,575 individuals signed the letter.

The DRBC meeting is virtual and open to the public but to attend you must register online and to speak during the public comment session, which is held after the meeting, you must sign up the day before – by 5:00 pm, December 6. Go here to register and find more details: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/index.html>

Background:

Controversy has raged for years regarding fracking in the Delaware River Watershed, which spans the four states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware with about one third of the Watershed underlain by Marcellus Shale. After 10 years of a moratorium on fracking, water export for fracking, and fracking wastewater treatment, fought for by the public, the Delaware River Basin Commission permanently banned fracking throughout the watershed in February 2021. At the same time, they directed the DRBC staff to prepare draft gas regulations that would propose whether or not the import of wastewater produced by fracking and the export of water for fracking outside of the watershed was also going to be banned.

The draft regulations issued in October 2021 proposed to allow fracking wastewater imports and water exports for fracking, despite the public's call for a COMPLETE ban and the science warning of the dangers of fracking pollution and the enormous depletion of water used in fracking. The Delaware River Frack Ban Coalition has warned that importation of wastewater into the Watershed provides a loophole that allows this highly toxic and radioactive waste to be processed through systems that discharge to air such as incinerators, to be recycled and reused as cooling water and in manufacturing, and will provide a convenient location where the industry can store their wastewater in the enormous tank facilities being used in fracking today. All of these activities will release pollution and endanger public health, especially in already unjustly overburdened communities where there is industrial infrastructure.

The Coalition points out that DRBC should be emboldened by the agency's recent defeat of a legal challenge to its permanent ban on fracking that was [upheld in federal court](#), showing that the agency has the authority to prevent the Watershed's degradation and protect its communities by enacting the FULL ban that is needed.

The Delaware, the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, is a Wild and Scenic River, a National Estuary, home to biologically diverse and treasured iconic species, some of which are gravely endangered, and the source of drinking water for up to 17 million people, including New York City and the greater Philadelphia region. Over 8 million people live and work within the Basin and rely on the highly valuable yet vulnerable assets the river provides. Fracking in Pennsylvania is widely recognized as causing devastating human health harms and long-lived unmitigated environmental damage. The climate impacts of the release of methane by fracking and its operations is

well documented by scientists as a major driver of atmospheric warming, feeding the climate crisis.

The Delaware River Frack Ban Coalition includes Berks Gas Truth, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Clean Water Action, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Environment New Jersey, Food & Water Watch, Natural Resources Defense Council, and New Jersey Sierra Club. Collectively, the organizations represent several hundred thousand members who are devoted to the Delaware River Watershed.

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