



Help Protect Your Drinking Water and the Delaware River from Toxic Gas Drilling



The Delaware River is the drinking water supply for 15.6 million people—about 5% of the US population; it is one of the cleanest rivers in the nation due to years of work to protect and restore it. Philadelphia and New York City residents, 2.9 million NJ residents, and 200,000 DE citizens rely on the Delaware River for their drinking water. But the health of the Delaware is in jeopardy if natural gas corporations have their way and drilling for gas in Marcellus shale using risky hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is permitted in the Delaware River Watershed.

Three votes by the four Governors of the Delaware Basin and the federal government rep. that comprise the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will determine if the Delaware River gets drilled or if freshwater and lands are protected for our families.

Drilling is running rampant in other parts of PA. In 2011 – 5,728 drilling permits were granted (that's almost 23 permits daily) and 2,907 wells were drilled. DEP detected 4,382 violations during inspections - explosions, spills, and toxic pollution has occurred - leaving contaminated communities, streams, air, and aquifers behind. The state agency that regulates the industry is understaffed with the lowest budget in 40 years. Gas drillers are exempt from sections of at least six federal regulations including the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. People's drinking water is catching on fire. The practice of fracking uses an average 4.5 million gallons of water to frack a well. A well can be fracked multiple times over its lifetime. There could be more than 50,000 gas wells in the Delaware River Watershed alone. The toxic wastewater produced contains hundreds of chemicals that include carcinogens, neurotoxins, hydrocarbons, endocrine disruptors and radioactive materials. People and animals are getting sick in drilling country.

To protect drinking water, citizens and a diverse coalition of small business leaders, hunting and fishing groups,

faith-based groups, and civic groups have urged DRBC to keep the moratorium on drilling in place. Historic numbers of comments from the public - 69,000 - were received when draft gas drilling regulations were issued in 2011. The DRBC was scheduled to vote to start drilling in the Watershed on 11.21.11 but they postponed the meeting when it was revealed they couldn't get a majority vote to agree it was safe. And the drilling moratorium in the Delaware River Basin still stands! But the drillers and PA's Governor Corbett are relentlessly pressuring them to give in. We must keep insisting that public policy be guided by science and protection of drinking water and communities. The evidence shows that shale gas drilling inevitably pollutes aquifers, our streams and rivers, the air, and our communities. There are too many instances of contamination and sickness where drilling is occurring and science coming out adds more weight we need to stop gas drilling - it is not safe or worth the risk to our families and communities.

We need more citizens to urge the Governors to commence the comprehensive environmental analysis needed to forever prevent the big energy corporations from invading and polluting our Watershed and listen to the science. The mandate of the DRBC is to prevent degradation of the clean water of the Delaware River but drilling would put the water for 15.6 million people at risk.

What You Can Do to Help

Meet up with your state legislators and tell them about fracking. Proposed fracking legislation needs action by our leaders who are mandated to protect us.

Contact the Governors of NJ, NY, PA, & DE and the Federal Rep. -

These leaders appoint the 5 voting members of DRBC – their vote will determine the fate of our drinking water. Send a letter with a click at:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?id=116>. Ask your township to write too.

Call Them:

Gov Christie: 609-292-6000; Gov Markell: 302-577-3210
Gov Corbett: 717-787-2500; Gov Cuomo: 518-474-8390
Pres Obama: 202-456-1111. Post on their Facebook walls – No drilling in the Delaware Basin.

Download & Sign the Petition ask 10 friends to sign <http://tinyurl.com/PetitionDRBC>

Or sign online at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/the-governor-of-pa-keep-drilling-and-fracking-out-of-the-delaware-river-basin>. Please Share on Facebook

Watch the documentary GASLAND. Host community screenings. Learn More: <http://tinyurl.com/ShaleFacts>
Visit www.delawariverkeeper.org for more info.