



For Immediate Release  
February 16, 2011

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Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, DRN, (o) 215-369-1188 x 104 or (c) 215-692-2329

**Pennsylvania's Delaware River Watershed Legislators**  
**Call for Expansion of Public Comment**  
**on Delaware River Basin Commission Draft Natural Gas Rules**

*Delaware River Watershed* – Six Pennsylvania elected representatives from the Delaware River delegation have submitted letters to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) over the past week requesting the agency extend the public comment period for the Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations it has issued so more of their constituents can give input. The Public Comment period is due to close on March 16, just a month away.

Public interest in the critical rulemaking that will govern gas development activities in the Basin has been remarkably high yet the 90 day public comment period does not allow enough time for full participation. This important set of regulations will impact all corners of the Basin due to the far reaching water quality and quantity effects of natural gas development on water supplies, arguing for a comment period that's long enough and enough public hearings to truly reflect broad input.

Leaders who have submitted letters to the DRBC include Rep. Mark B. Cohen (202<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District), Rep. Lawrence Curry (154<sup>th</sup> Legislative District), Rep. Robert L. Freeman (136<sup>th</sup> Legislative District), Rep. Babette Josephs (182<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District), Rep. Tony Payton Jr. (179<sup>th</sup> Legislative District), and Rep Greg Vitali (166<sup>th</sup> Legislative District).

Legislators commented on why they sent letters calling for more time and opportunity for public input.

“Philadelphia City Council’s Marcellus Shale Report and Resolution No.100515 of 2010 raised serious issues that demand a deliberate and careful response by regulators as well as more time for the public to fully assess the risks and benefit of drilling”, said Rep. Mark B. Cohen.

Rep. Greg Vitali stated, “The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people, other agencies, and elected officials to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas development on drinking water and the Special Protection Waters of the Delaware River Basin and the complexity of the issues involved.”

“I support broad and active participation by the public in regulatory decision-making; I believe there is no good decision made in our democracy that does not encourage robust public participation. With the safe drinking water of 15 million people at stake, it is critical this process is given an in depth review and analysis to make sure the water supply is protected.” said Rep Babette Josephs.

Copies of the letters submitted are attached.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is accepting comments on its Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations through March 16, 2011. The DRBC’s draft rules are available at [http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/notice\\_naturalgas-draftregs.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/notice_naturalgas-draftregs.htm) Comment can be submitted now electronically at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=33467> Public Hearings will be held Feb. 22 – Honesdale High School Auditorium, 459 Terrace Street, Honesdale, Pa., Feb. 22 – Liberty High School Auditorium, 125 Buckley Street, Liberty, N.Y. and Feb. 24 – Patriots Theater, War Memorial, 1 Memorial Drive, Trenton, N.J. All are 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

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**Mark B. Cohen**  
**Pennsylvania House of Representatives**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17120-2202**

**February 9, 2011**

**Carol Collier**  
**Executive Director**  
**Delaware River Basin Commission**  
**P.O. Box 7360**  
**West Trenton, NJ 08628**

**Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations—the Public Process**

**Dear Ms. Collier,**

**I urge the Commission to expand the public comment period for the proposed natural gas regulations issued on December 9, 2010. Philadelphia City Council's Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling Impact Report and Resolution No. 100515 of 2010 raised serious issues that demand a deliberate and careful response by regulators as well as more time for the public to fully assess the risks and benefit of drilling.**

**I join with City Council and community groups in requesting that the Commission expand the public comment period for the proposed regulations from 90 days to at least 180 days in order to allow for informed public comment. In addition, I request that additional public hearings be scheduled to allow public comment in communities whose drinking water may be impacted by drilling—especially Philadelphia.**

**Marcellus Shale gas drilling could very well affect water quality for generations; it is not too much to ask for a few more months of deliberation now with so much at stake.**

**Thank you for your attention on this important issue.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Cohen".

**Mark B. Cohen**  
**State Representative, 202<sup>nd</sup> legislative District**  
**Democratic Chair, Human Services Committee**

**BABETTE JOSEPHS**, DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
MAJORITY CHAIR,  
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 182ND DISTRICT

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WEB SITE: www.babette.org

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February 11, 2011

Carol Collier  
Executive Director  
Commission Members  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations—the Public Process

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As Chair of the State Government Committee, I have worked for years to remove barriers to voting; this government does not work without that. In the same vein, I support broad and active participation by the public in regulatory decision making; I believe there is no good decision made in our democracy that does not encourage robust public participation.

Therefore, I urge you to expand the public input process for the proposed natural gas regulations that you issued on December 9, 2010. Because of the large numbers of citizens who are deeply concerned and who want to participate meaningfully and because of the complexities of the issues involved, the 90 day comment period is simply not long enough.

The dense 80 page rule that you have published requires an in-depth technical analysis that will take time to digest and requires careful expert review. The development of policy comments by policymakers such as elected officials and relevant agencies as well as by nongovernmental organizations and the general public also requires a comprehensive analysis of the proposed regulations and an understanding of the Commission's regulatory regime. All of this takes time to be done right.

I request that the Commission expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations:

1. The public comment period should be extended from 90 days to 180 days especially since the original 90 period fell over the major end of year holidays, and

2. Three hearings are not sufficient to allow input from the private citizens and citizen-run advocacy organizations. Public hearings should be held at geographically accessible locations and in the evening as well as during the day. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, there should be at least one in the Upper Delaware, one in the Lehigh Valley Region and one in Philadelphia, where 1.5 million people get their drinking water from City intakes.

Your ruling will shape the future of the Delaware River Basin; it is truly a landmark undertaking. Please advise me of your intentions and do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Yours,

Babette Josephs

BJ:jb

CC: Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper  
Russell Brady, Clean Water Action  
Christine Knapp, PennFuture  
David Masur, PennEnvironment

GREG VITALI, MEMBER

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February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Carol Collier

Executive Director  
Commission Members  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations—the Public Process

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As a Pennsylvania legislator, I support broad and active participation by the public in government decision making. I believe that public input improves the outcome that is achieved and that more informed and effective decisions are made by regulatory agencies when the public robustly takes part in the process.

I urge you to expand the public input process for the proposed natural gas regulations that you issued on December 9. The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas development on drinking water and the complexity of the issues involved.

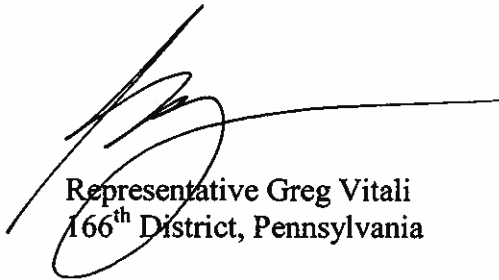
The dense 80 page rule that you have published requires in depth technical comments that will take time to develop and requires careful expert review. The development of policy comments by policymakers such as elected officials and relevant agencies as well as by nongovernmental organizations and the general public also requires a comprehensive analysis of the proposed regulations and an understanding of the Commission's regulatory regime. All of this takes time to be done right.

I request that the Commission expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations:

1. The public comment period should be extended from 90 days to 180 days in order to allow for robust public participation; 90 days is wholly inadequate, especially considering that holidays occurred in the midst of the original period.
2. Verbal testimony is an important way people can take part and three hearings are not sufficient to allow input from the affected public. Public hearings should be held at geographically accessible locations. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, there should be at least one in the Upper Delaware, one in the Lehigh Valley Region and a public hearing in Philadelphia, where 1.5 million people get their drinking water from City intakes.

Thank you for considering my suggestions regarding the public's input into the Commission's proposed natural gas development regulations, a landmark rulemaking that will shape the future of the Delaware River Basin. Please advise me as to your intentions regarding expansion of the public participation process.

Sincerely,



Representative Greg Vitali  
166<sup>th</sup> District, Pennsylvania

TONY PAYTON, JR., MEMBER

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAUCUS  
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9 February 2011

Carol Collier  
Executive Director  
Commission Members  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations—the Public Process

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As a Pennsylvania legislator, I support broad and active participation by the public in government decision making. I believe that public input improves the outcome that is achieved and that more informed and effective decisions are made by regulatory agencies when the public robustly takes part in the process.

I urge you to expand the public input process for the proposed natural gas regulations that you issued on December 9. The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas development on drinking water and the complexity of the issues involved.

The dense 80 page rule that you have published requires in depth technical comments that will take time to develop and requires careful expert review. The development of policy comments by policymakers such as elected officials and relevant agencies as well as by nongovernmental organizations and the general public also requires a comprehensive analysis of the proposed regulations and an understanding of the Commission's regulatory regime. All of this takes time to be done right.



I request that the Commission expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations:

1. The public comment period should be extended from 90 days to 180 days in order to allow for robust public participation; 90 days is wholly inadequate, especially considering that holidays occurred in the midst of the original period.
2. Verbal testimony is an important way people can take part and three hearings are not sufficient to allow input from the affected public. Public hearings should be held at geographically accessible locations. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, there should be at least one in the Upper Delaware, one in the Lehigh Valley Region and a public hearing in Philadelphia, where 1.5 million people get their drinking water from City intakes.

Thank you for considering my suggestions regarding the public's input into the Commission's proposed natural gas development regulations, a landmark rulemaking that will shape the future of the Delaware River Basin. Please advise me as to your intentions regarding expansion of the public participation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Payton, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Payton, Jr.

cc. Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

LAWRENCE H. CURRY, MEMBER

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February 15, 2011

Carol Collier

Executive Director

Commission Members

Delaware River Basin Commission

P.O. Box 7360 West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations—the Public Process

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As a Pennsylvania legislator, I am writing in request that the DRBC expand its public comment period to provide for adequate review by the public regarding the proposed natural gas drilling regulations for drilling in the Delaware Watershed.

I have attended DRBC meetings on this matter and hope to continue to share my voice and support for their efforts on addressing this important issue, particularly during this critical time. This expanded public comment period time is necessary to provide the scrutiny of review over complex regulations. I believe that public input improves the outcome that is achieved and that more informed and effective decisions are made by regulatory agencies when the public robustly takes part in the process.

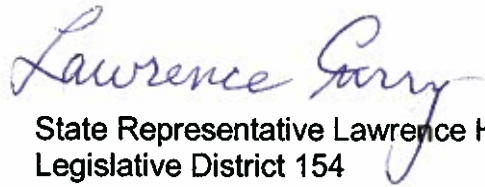
The dense 80 page rule that you have published requires in depth technical comments that will take time to develop and requires careful expert review. The development of policy comments by policymakers such as elected officials and relevant agencies as well as by nongovernmental organizations and the general public also requires a comprehensive analysis of the proposed regulations and an understanding of the Commission's regulatory regime. All of this takes time to be done right.

I urge you to expand the public input process for the proposed natural gas regulations that you issued on December 9. The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas development on drinking water and the complexity of the issues involved.

I strongly urge the Commission to expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations by extending that period from 90 days to 180 days in order to allow for insightful and passionate public participation. Additionally, I encourage the Commission take into consideration Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, needing numerous public hearings, and ones held at geographically prudent locations.

Thank you for considering my suggestions regarding the public's input into the Commission's proposed natural gas development regulations, a landmark rulemaking that will shape forever the future of the Delaware River Basin.

Sincerely,



State Representative Lawrence H. Curry  
Legislative District 154

cc. Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

ROBERT L. FREEMAN  
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
AND ENERGY COMMITTEE  
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



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February 11, 2011

Carol Collier  
Executive Director  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

As a Pennsylvania legislator who has represented the City of Easton for over 24 years the Delaware River is an important natural resource for my community. I understand that the DRBC has set several public hearings at various locations and dates in order to receive testimony regarding the proposed natural gas drilling regulations that you issued on December 9, 2010.

However, due to the vast number of people these regulations will affect I urge you to expand the public input process in order to give more people an opportunity to participate. The 90 day comment period is simply not long enough for large numbers of people to meaningfully participate, especially considering the strong public concern about the impacts of natural gas drilling on drinking water.

The proposed regulations require very intricate review and technical analysis. These comments will take time to develop and require careful expert review. This short time frame may not be long enough for a thorough review of an issue which affects so many people and is so technical in nature.

I respectfully request that the Commission expand the public participation process for the proposed regulations from 90 days to 180 days in order to allow for greater public participation. Verbal testimony is an important way people can take part and three hearings are not sufficient to allow input from the public.

Furthermore, public hearings should be held at geographically accessible locations. In Pennsylvania, the state with the largest and longest land mass that drains to the Delaware, there should be at least one in the Upper Delaware, one in the Lehigh Valley Region and a public hearing in Philadelphia, where 1.5 million people rely on getting their drinking water from the Delaware River.

Thank you for considering my suggestions regarding the public's input into the Commission's proposed natural gas drilling regulations that will shape the future of the Delaware River Basin. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert L. Freeman", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Robert L. Freeman  
State Representative  
136<sup>th</sup> Legislative District