



For Immediate Release
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Natural Gas Drilling Permit Legally Challenged by Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Nockamixon Township

Bucks County, PA Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and Nockamixon Township, Bucks County, PA have joined forces to appeal the issuance of a renewed natural gas drilling permit to Arbor Resources by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The joint appeal was filed with the Environmental Hearing Board in Harrisburg on May 18, 2010.

Arbor Operating LLC is proposing to drill and operate a gas well in the Lockatong Shale formation on property owned by Cabot Corporation. PADEP issued a renewed permit to the company on April 13, 2010, failing to provide public notice or a copy to the Township prior to or after its issuance.

According to the Notice of Appeal, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Nockamixon Township oppose the permit based on environmental resource and community concerns including inadequate consideration of adverse impacts to:

- Rapp Creek, designated an Exceptional Value (EV) stream by Pennsylvania, and anti-degradation requirements for the watershed;
- groundwater quality and quantity and stream flow;

- the Township’s comprehensive planning, zoning, and resource protection ordinances;
- the sustainability of water supplies;
- the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River;
- cumulative watershed impacts.

“PADEP has blindly issued a permit to drill in this sensitive, highly vulnerable watershed without consideration of the degradation that gas drilling will bring. PADEP is failing in its obligation to protect the communities and environments of the Commonwealth and instead seems mostly concerned with servicing the gas drillers and industry. If the State won’t protect us, then we will protect ourselves”, said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, co-plaintiff.

“Nockamixon Township has been fulfilling its constitutional obligation to protect our community’s fragile water supply and other natural resources. Unfortunately, it is now clear that we must take action to hold the state government accountable to do the same.” said Jordan Yeager, Solicitor, Nockamixon Township.

“Delaware Riverkeeper Network is proud to join with Nockamixon Township on this important challenge. The appeal sends a clear message to DEP that rubber-stamping gas drilling permits is not acceptable,” said Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Senior Attorney for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

The Township has been involved in litigation with Arbor regarding the enforcement of Township Comprehensive Planning and zoning over natural gas development since 2008.

For more information on natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed, go to www.delawariverkeeper.org

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