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Contacts: Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper 215-369-1188 x 102 (office & cell)
Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-692-2329

**Delaware Riverkeeper Condemns New York Governor Cuomo's
Cynical Plan to Allow Fracking to Start!**
Reports say New York will target certain counties as soon as end of this summer

Bristol, PA – The Delaware Riverkeeper condemns a plan reported by the New York Times and other media that Governor Cuomo will allow shale gas drilling and fracking to commence in the State.

Last week, a [story](#) in the New York Times revealed that New York is getting ready to approve the Environmental Impact Statement that will allow hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in some counties in New York – mainly in the Southern Tier focusing on Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben and Tioga Counties. These counties are located above the Pennsylvania border and hold the headwaters of the Susquehanna and Delaware River Watersheds. Although no official announcement has been made regarding the Environmental Impact Statement New York has been engaged in for the past three years, the Governor's office indicated that these counties will be targeted first; the green light may be given as early as this summer.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, soundly criticized the plan stating, "How can Governor Cuomo consider allowing shale gas development when the State's environmental study is so riddled with holes and unaddressed pollution and public health issues? How can Governor Cuomo allow shale gas drilling in New York when he can see how many citizens and communities are getting sick, hurt and traumatized from the practice in other states? And how can New York pretend it is safe to drill in some counties and not in others — especially when science shows the

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org

pollution problems are the result of drilling and fracking shale formations, not where or how deep these well bores go? The political calculus that would allow drilling in some communities while sparing others is dead wrong; it is unethical, immoral, and lacks any basis in sound science,” said van Rossum. “We call on Governor Cuomo to stop this cynical move and address the public health and environmental issues of hydraulic fracturing and drilling in shale formations head on. There is simply no way to frack safely and New York should admit that,” added van Rossum.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network, a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the Delaware River Watershed is joining with organizations from throughout the region on June 20 at 11:00 am at the State House in Albany to protest Governor Cuomo’s plan.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been among the leaders that has secured a moratorium against shale gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed, including leading multiple lawsuits against the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for violations of law that if left unaddressed would subject communities to the health and environmental damage caused by fracking, drilling and associated development and wastewater disposal. The 501(c)(3) organization works throughout the Delaware River watershed – including NY, NJ, PA and DE. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been supporting concerned citizens, gathering scientific data, and ensuring compliance with environmental protection laws in response to the harms brought on by shale gas drilling and development.

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