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**New Jersey Legislators Urged to Over-Ride
Governor Christie Conditional Veto of Frack Ban Bill
Video “Drilling and Fracking Impacts” Released to Each Legislator**

Trenton, New Jersey – Today Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) sent each elected member of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly a copy of a video the organization commissioned (“Drilling and Fracking Impacts”) that examines the environmental and community impacts of natural gas drilling, offering support and encouragement to the Legislature for an over-ride of Governor Chris Christie’s veto of the Frack Ban Bill. The video is available on DRN’s website at <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?id=10>

In a letter accompanying the video DRN thanked the Legislators for standing up for New Jersey’s residents and acting to protect the State’s drinking water and environment with the passage of the Frack Ban Bill which prohibits the use of hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” in natural gas drilling in New Jersey. Senate Bill 2576, sponsored by Senator Robert Gordon (District 38, Bergen) and Senator Linda Greenstein (District 14, Mercer and Middlesex), passed by a bi-partisan landslide: Yes, 33; No, 1; Not Voting, 6. Assembly Bill 3653, sponsored by Assemblywoman Connie Wagner (District 38, Bergen), Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (District 15, Mercer), and Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (District 37, Bergen) also passed by a bi-partisan landslide: Yes, 58; No, 11; Not Voting, 2, Abstains 8. Governor Chris Christie conditionally vetoed the Bill on August 25, asking the Legislature to amend the Bill to a one year moratorium. DRN and others are seeking an over-ride.

“The Governor’s proposal for a one year moratorium and study doesn’t provide the protection that’s needed. While ongoing scientific studies are examining fracking at the national level, there is already ample evidence and technical information at hand that proves fracking pollutes and exposes water and air to irreversible degradation. We see a complete Ban of the practice in New Jersey as essential; there are just too many people and the water supplies are too vulnerable to risk pollution,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

A wide coalition of New Jersey organizations worked together in support of the Ban Bill and oppose Governor Christie’s counter proposal of a study and a one year moratorium, which assumes that within a year fracking may be acceptable here. Immediately responding to the Governor’s veto, the prime sponsors of the Bill, Senator Gordon and Assemblywoman Wagner, issued a statement pledging to work for an over-ride, stating the evidence is clear that fracking is unsafe and should not be allowed now or in a year (<http://www.njsendems.com/release.asp?rid=4087>).

In the letter sent to Legislators today, DRN points out that the sweeping majority that voted for the Ban Bill can accomplish an over-ride, which requires a 2/3 majority vote. If the Legislature over-rides the veto, making the Bill Law, New Jersey will be the first state to ban the practice.

“The best investment that can be made in New Jersey’s water resources is to prevent pollution; that makes the bold approach of banning fracking the most reasonable action our elected officials can take here. We can’t afford fracking’s environmental and fiscal burdens – we need the Ban to protect our drinking water and environment,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, DRN.

Energy companies are looking to expand their gas fields into the Delaware River Watershed, which provides water to more than 15 million people, the largest and cleanest water supply basin in the mid-Atlantic region; at least 3 million of those who rely on Delaware River water live in New Jersey. While Marcellus is not found in our State, Utica and other gas-bearing shales underlie portions of northwestern New Jersey. Utica shale is being explored now in New York and PA and is forecasted by the industry to hold substantial gas reserves, making fracking in New Jersey in the foreseeable future a real likelihood.

In its letter, DRN reminds the officials that New Jersey is the most crowded state in the nation at 8.8 million people in 8,722 square miles. Also pointed out is that it takes every drop of water the State has, and then some, to meet everyday needs and that the State's highly developed condition makes its residents and water supply highly vulnerable. The letter states that gas drilling is documented to be a grossly polluting activity; just one catastrophic accident would harm untold numbers of people and irreplaceable water supplies. In Pennsylvania, in 2010 about 6 environmental permit violations per day by drillers were recorded by PA Department of Environmental Protection and violations have ballooned to about 11 per day in the first 6 months of this year. "The human and economic costs that are forced on to taxpayers by water and air pollution is a burden we simply cannot shoulder, especially in these economically difficult times," the letter continues. The full letter is at:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/ltr%20video%20to%20legilstors9%2016%2011.pdf>

Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" is the practice of injecting water and chemicals through a drilled well bore into a rock formation to crack open fractures to release natural gas. Natural gas, primarily methane, trapped in tight geologic formations such as the Marcellus and Utica shales, cannot be accessed without using this practice. Approximately 260 chemicals - and another 40 compounds with secret ingredients that the industry will not disclose- are being used in fracking fluids in Pennsylvania and other states where shale gas is being mined.¹ Many of these chemicals are hazardous to humans and other species, many are toxic such as naphthalene, glutaraldehyde, and acrylamide and some are classified as carcinogenic by the federal government such as benzene, formaldehyde, and methanol.

In addition, fracking disturbs, distributes, and brings to the surface naturally occurring chemicals/minerals from deep geologic formations in the "flowback" fluids that erupt to the surface when a well is fracked. The resulting wastewater containing salts ("total dissolved solids"), heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and "naturally occurring radioactive materials" or NORMS, is typically stored in open pits at the well site, which are the source of hazardous air emissions and pose water pollution risks. When finally trucked to a wastewater facility, most of the pollutants are not removed but are simply diluted and discharged to waterways or are injected into underground

¹ NYSDEC Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (DSGEIS), 2009

"disposal" wells. There are no treatment facilities in use that are capable of removing all of the pollutants found in gas drilling wastewater. The United States Department of Energy concludes that produced water from gas drilling is 10 times more toxic than those from off shore oil drilling.²

Due to the depth and length of the well bores (horizontal drilling is used to access the layers of shale), large amounts of fresh water are being consumed by fracking. About 5 million gallons of water is used to frack each gas well and it is all a depletive loss because about 80-85% stays underground and what does flow back is never returned to the source.

Air emissions are also adversely impacting communities where drilling is occurring and downwind. These include smog and pollutants from large numbers of diesel powered vehicles and equipment, the volatilization of hydrocarbons, dangerous methane releases, high levels of small particulate matter and frack fluid and wastewater toxins, including carcinogens such as benzene and methanol. Recent studies show that greenhouse gases from shale gas development have as big an impact, or bigger, than coal or oil, heavily contributing to global climate change³. The natural gas industry is exempt from major provisions in federal environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Superfund Law.

There is a moratorium on gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin, instituted by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the agency that oversees water resource management in the Delaware River Watershed. The moratorium is on the verge of being overturned with the release of gas drilling regulations, which DRN and others have challenged in court as being inadequate to protect drinking water supplies and the river's resources. The DRBC is holding a special meeting October 21 at the Trenton War Memorial to "consider adoption" of the gas regulations. (http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/newsrel_naturalgas090611.htm)

For more information on gas drilling and fracking, go to www.delawareriverkeeper.org

² U.S. Dept. of Energy, Argonne National Laboratory, "A White Paper Describing Produced Water from Production of Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Coal Bed Methane", January 2004

³ Robert W. Howarth, Renee Santoro, and Anthony Ingraffea, Cornell University, "Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations", 2011.