



Press Announcement
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Delaware Riverkeeper Network files federal lawsuit

United States District Court, Trenton, New Jersey – Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) filed in federal district court to overturn the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) approval of Stone Energy's withdrawal of .70 million gallons of water per day from the West Branch of the Lackawaxen River to be used to hydraulically fracture the gas wells they plan to drill in the Delaware River Watershed. Stone Energy's withdrawal site in Clinton Township, Wayne County is in the headwaters of the tributary which flows to the Delaware River at Lackawaxen, PA by the Zane Grey Museum.

The DRBC granted approval of the water withdrawal on July 14; DRN filed a Request for Hearing with the DRBC to challenge the approval but a hearing was denied September 15, 2010. On October 29, 2010, DRN filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in Trenton. DRN's next move will be to serve the complaint on the DRBC, and then the case will move forward.

DRN is challenging the DRBC's approval as premature and illegal. The complaint contends the withdrawal will result in adverse impacts to the West Branch, a small headwater stream, teaming with fish and aquatic life in rural Wayne County and to the Delaware River downstream.

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Fishing is popular on the West Branch and the main stem of the Lackawaxen and drawing it down for natural gas development has stirred tremendous controversy. Over 1700 letters were submitted on the record regarding the withdrawal and hundreds more continued to pour into the DCRBC in the months that followed. Approximately 400 people attended the February 24 six hour long Public Hearing on the matter in Matamoros, PA. Few issues have sparked as much interest as this first water withdrawal approval by the Commission that is supposed to be protecting the Delaware River and its tributaries from degradation.

To read the Complaint DRN filed in federal court go to:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/DRN%20Complaint.pdf>