

# RIVER RAPIDS

The newsletter of the DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

Fall 2013

*The Delaware Riverkeeper Network:  
because a River can't defend itself.*

*The East Branch Delaware River near Downsville, NY. F. Zerbe*





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RIVERKEEPER  
NETWORK

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## DRN invites you to take our readership survey

At the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, we take very seriously the responsibility to inform and involve our members in efforts to protect and restore the Delaware River Watershed. Since DRN was formed in 1988, our primary vehicle for providing you with information has been *River Rapids*, our organization's newsletter.

But we are always looking for ways to save resources, increase our effectiveness and broaden our reach wherever we can in order to ensure that every dollar donated to us is working as hard as possible for the River. **We are currently evaluating our member communications to determine the best way to provide you with the news about the River that you want and need.**

*River Rapids* has changed over the past 25 years, evolving from a quarterly print publication to a digital publication posted online in February, June and October with our members receiving postcard notices of *River Rapids'* availability online. In addition, *River Rapids* is now supplemented with a monthly e-mail newsletter that provides our members with timely information about member events, volunteer opportunities, and new resources and merchandise. But we want your input to determine what *River Rapids* should look like in the future.

**DRN is now inviting you to participate in our 2013 readership survey conducted through Vertical Response.** Each additional response will improve our understanding of how our members want to receive their River news. **Help us by taking our survey.** The survey, which closes on December 31st, should take just 10 minutes of your time. **To take the survey, go to [bit.ly/RiverRapidsSurvey](http://bit.ly/RiverRapidsSurvey).**

**Thanks for your input!**



Bumblebee on purple coneflower. F. Zerbe

## Delaware Riverkeeper Network

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[www.youtube.com/delawareriverkeeper](http://www.youtube.com/delawareriverkeeper)

## *A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper* **Who is against fracking? It's a surprise.**

Who said the following about fracking and drilling the watershed of another river that serves as a primary drinking water supply?

- Safe water supply is essential to life . . .
- Our needs for a safe, reliable water supply involve both issues of water quantity and quality.
- Long-standing interstate agreements for the . . . Watershed, to which we have been a signatory, have addressed water quantity and quality protection as essential to properly managing this key natural resource.
- [A]ny action that could vitiate the effects of these agreements would be unwelcome.
- [S]trongly supports the selection of an Alternative that prohibits the use of horizontal fracturing (hydrofracking) for natural gas development . . .
- [E]nough study on the technique has been done and information has been published to give us great cause for concern about the potential for degradation of the quality of our raw water supply as well as impact to the quantity of the supply.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

The Washington Aqueduct, a division of the Army Corps' Baltimore District, made these statements on October 17th, 2011, when responding to a request for comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the George Washington National Forest. The Washington Aqueduct is a federally owned public water supply providing drinking water for approximately one million people living in and around the District of Columbia. The drinking water supply for the Aqueduct, and therefore Washington, D.C. begins in the George Washington National Forest.

The Army Corps made these comments to inform the decision about whether or not to open the George Washington National Forest up to drilling and fracking.

Why is the Army Corps so committed to protecting Washington, D.C.'s drinking water supply yet it sits on the fence when it comes to our Delaware River? The Army Corps has gone so far as to suggest that economic claims for drilling in our Watershed could be more important than protecting the water that 17 million people drink.

What do I think is the difference?

1. The Washington Aqueduct is the President's water.
2. Damage to the Washington Aqueduct water supply will be blamed directly upon the Army Corps.

The Army Corps clearly knows drilling and fracking aren't safe for communities and water—let them act like an army and stand in defense of all of the waters we as a nation drink, rather than let the water of some be poisoned by an invading industry that is happy to sacrifice U.S. citizens, residents and visitors just to make another dime.

*Maya K. van Rossum*  
the Delaware Riverkeeper



*Photo: K. Gowan van Rossum, who has served as the Delaware Riverkeeper since 1996, uses her skills as an environmental attorney, strategist, community organizer, facilitator, coalition builder and manager to enable the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to make progress in improving the health of the Delaware River Watershed.*



*Right: The Neversink River, just below New York City's drinking water reservoir. M. van Rossum*



## ***Stormwater fees trend presents opportunity, but demands caution***

*Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper*

After years of introduction and reintroduction, Pennsylvania passed legislation in 2013 that will expressly allow for the creation of stormwater authorities for the purpose of helping communities charge, collect and invest fees needed for maintaining, upgrading and enhancing their stormwater systems. However, some communities—concerned by the level of bureaucracy an authority requires—are using a different strategy: enacting stormwater user fees that would be charged and collected by the municipality and applied to the municipal stormwater system.

Philadelphia was the first municipality in Pennsylvania to adopt a stormwater fee years ago. In 2010, the City adopted an approach for assessing stormwater fees based on lot size and impervious area. Mount Lebanon approved the adoption of a stormwater fee in 2011 and Meadville approved an ordinance enacting a stormwater fee in 2012. And now Radnor Township in Delaware County is considering a stormwater fee.

Whether a community creates an authority or adopts a user fee, it is important that the legal enabling language is clear and that funds collected will not simply be used on traditional detention basins and pipes. Merely collecting stormwater to move it from one location to another increases stormwater volume and associated flooding, pollution, erosion and damages. Instead, municipalities should make it a priority to use these fees in a way that actually reduces runoff, and addresses the pollution, erosion and flood damage impacts in a way that also reduces present and future stormwater harms.

For example, as initially proposed, user fees collected under Radnor Township's ordinance would have been used to collect, convey, detain and/or treat stormwater. Fees collected would not have been used on stormwater practices that avoid, minimize and/or infiltrate stormwater. Applicable federal and state laws and policies emphasize the priority importance

of stormwater avoidance, minimization and infiltration (i.e., soaking stormwater into the soil). As such, Radnor was failing to include in its program the very strategies that major stormwater laws seek to encourage. That early Radnor user fee ordinance language and its associated credit program would have invested in more detention basins and pipes. Instead, it should have been used to support and secure:

- Strategies for avoiding runoff, such as removing existing impervious cover and replacing it with pervious natural habitats,
- Stream restoration projects that restore the carrying capacity of streams and direct them on a natural flow path that avoids redirection into existing homes or infrastructure,
- Streambank restoration to address the erosion of public and private lands and/or the undermining of roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and/or
- Floodplain restoration projects to restore and enhance their ability to reduce flood peaks and flows.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network provided detailed written comment, public testimony and recommended much needed changes in language and focus for the proposed ordinance. To their credit, Radnor Township's Commissioners listened and the ordinance language was revised so as to focus on preventing, avoiding, minimizing and addressing the harms of stormwater runoff.

If your town starts talking about a stormwater utility or user fee please get in touch with DRN so we can help you ensure that any funds raised will be focused on strategies that avoid and minimize stormwater runoff, reduce and/or prevent future flood damages, address erosion and water pollution caused by past, present and future runoff, and make sure that all around the program will be one that helps your community rather than harms it with more detention and pipes.

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### ***The Delaware Riverkeeper meets with Yoko Ono***

*Debra Murphy*

After the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's 30-second TV ad, "Protect Our Water Before It's Too Late," won the *Artists Against Fracking* video contest, Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum had the great honor of having lunch with Yoko Ono, one of the organizers of *Artists Against Fracking*, in New York City. Maya used the opportunity to thank Ms. Ono for helping to shed light on the devastation fracking and drilling bring to communities. Maya reports that Ms. Ono is genuinely concerned about this issue and very earnest in her desire to help make a difference to prevent it from hurting anyone else.

See the award-winning ad at [bit.ly/protect-our-water](http://bit.ly/protect-our-water).



## ***Threatened status proposed for red knots***

*Maya K. van Rossum,  
the Delaware Riverkeeper*

In 2005, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network led the creation and submission of a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the red knot (*Caladris canutus rufa*) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We were joined on our petition by the American Littoral Society, Delmarva Ornithological Society, New Jersey Audubon Society and the Delaware Sierra Club. In response, the USFWS placed the red knot on a list of candidate species.

In September 2013, the USFWS announced it was proposing to list the red knot as “threatened.” DRN will be commenting to urge adoption of an even stronger level of protection, but is pleased that the USFWS has formally (and finally!) recognized the dire situation these birds face and that the agency will be taking greater action to protect them and support their recovery.

Check our website regularly for details on how you can lend your support to the listing of red knots.



*A red knot rufa along the Delaware Bayshore. M. van Rossum*

***Every spring migrating shorebirds, including the red knot, migrate from wintering grounds in South America to breeding grounds in the Arctic. The birds may fly as far as 4,000 miles nonstop. Their migration includes just a few critically timed rest stops, and the Delaware Bay is one of the most important.***

*When red knots arrive on the Delaware Bay, they are literally starving. They have used up their body fat, some of their lean body mass, and even their organs are shrunk in size. They come to the bayshore to rest and feast on horseshoe crab eggs, historically available in great abundance. They must eat enough eggs to double their body weight in just a few weeks so they can complete the final leg of their journey.*

*Independent studies show that the numbers of red knot rufa observed in the Delaware Bay stopover have steadily declined, from over 100,000 in the 1980s, to 43,000 in 2000, to just 15,300 in 2005. In 2008, New Jersey, urged and—supported by DRN and others—passed a moratorium on the bait harvest of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay in order to protect the red knot’s primary food supply. Delaware declined to take similar action, but there has been some stabilization of red knot numbers providing clear evidence that strong and meaningful human intervention can make a difference.*

## ***NJ court finds state stormwater point system to be improper***

*Nicholas Patton*

In September, the New Jersey Appellate Division struck down the issuance of freshwater wetlands and stormwater approvals for the Care One development in Hamilton Township on the grounds that, in issuing the permit, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) relied on an improper method to determine whether the project had sufficient stormwater protections. The lawsuit was initiated by Residents for Enforcement of Existing Land Use Code and joined by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network as amicus curiae (a friend of the court).

Among the issues raised in the lawsuit was that NJDEP failed to ensure that the Care One development sufficiently controlled stormwater flowing from its site. NJDEP has typically used a point system to determine whether a proposed development meets requirements to eliminate and/or minimize stormwater mismanagement issues, such as flooding and water quality impacts. If a development had enough points, NJDEP would consider stormwater controls to be met. However, the New Jersey Appellate Division agreed with DRN and the Residents and found the point system had never been properly vetted through the rulemaking process and struck down the use of the point system.

Moving forward, should NJDEP, New Jersey municipalities, or developers wish to rely on the point system to certify that a development complies with New Jersey stormwater requirements, NJDEP must put the point system through the public process, which should provide an opportunity to strengthen it. In the absence of the point system, developers will now have to more articulately state how measures they’ve incorporated into a particular development will reduce flooding, runoff and water quality impacts.



## Shale Gas Outrage 2013 held in Philadelphia

Tracy Carluccio

This year's Shale Gas Outrage event, held in Center City Philadelphia from September 24th through September 26th, included a Clean Water Drive—to focus attention on the pollution of drinking water by gas drilling activities—and the third annual *Freedom from Fracking* conference.

While the gas industry held their annual conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, we held a Clean Water Drive across the street at the Arch Street United Methodist Church to expose the real face of fracking and shame those responsible. While shale industry insiders and public officials hobnobbed inside the Convention Center, we were outside collecting jugs of water and cash contributions to purchase water for Pennsylvanians who have lost their water to pollution caused by gas companies.

The 48 hour Clean Water Drive collected over \$3,200 and 150 gallon jugs of water from generous Philadelphians, all donated to Pennsylvania residents in shale regions who have to buy replacement water. Water drives have been taking place across Pennsylvania this summer (see [bit.ly/localSTAND](http://bit.ly/localSTAND)). For a family of four, replacement water can cost around \$12,000 per year, a cost that is difficult, and for many, impossible, to bear. On September

26th, the donated water was taken to residents in Susquehanna and Bradford counties.

Also on September 26th, 105 people took part in the third annual *Freedom from Fracking* conference. This year's theme was "The True Cost of Fracking" with workshops and seminars in a teach-in style. John Fenton, a Wyoming rancher featured in the *Gasland* films, was the keynote speaker. Conference topics included: economics, health, first-hand experiences from gas impacted communities, air pollution, pipeline impacts, the need for a moratorium, and a special evening session illuminating the huge footprint of the gas industry in Philadelphia and Delaware River ports through refining, transport and marketing of shale gas products. All sessions included steps that individuals can take to impact these issues and how to get involved. Presentations can be viewed at: [shalegasoutrage.wordpress.com](http://shalegasoutrage.wordpress.com).

Shale Gas Outrage was jointly sponsored by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Protecting Our Waters, Berks Gas Truth, PennEnvironment and the Clean Air Council. Shale Gas Outrage and its mission statement have been endorsed by 65 organizations.

### Clean Water Drive

Ed Rodgers

DRN staff and members helped Pennsylvanians suffering from environmental damage caused by shale gas extraction. In 48 hours, over 150 gallon jugs of water and \$3,200 in donations were collected. On the last day of the event, organizers loaded the water into two vehicles for transport to affected communities.

Susquehanna County resident Gerri Kane, one the recipients of the water, was at the event and described the headaches and stomach problems she and her neighbors have suffered from drinking fracking fouled water.

To see a video about the Clean Water Drive, go to DRN's YouTube channel, [bit.ly/shalegaswater](http://bit.ly/shalegaswater).

#### Photos clockwise from top left:

Donated water being loaded for transport to Susquehanna and Bradford Counties. E. Rodgers; Maya van Rossum speaking at the Clean Water Drive. E. Rodgers; van Rossum speaking at the Freedom from Fracking conference. T. Carluccio



# The "Philly Gas Hub"

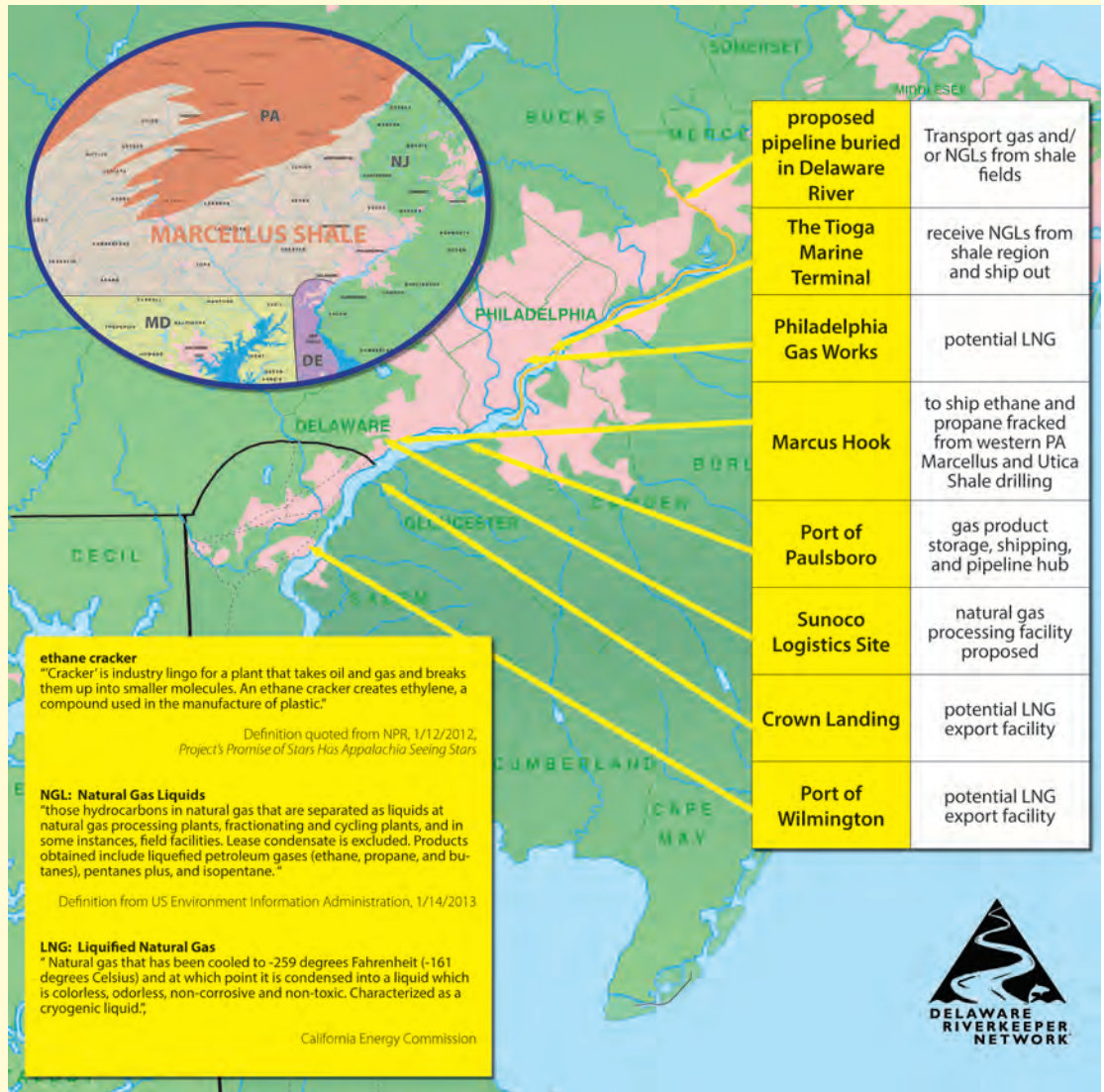
Tracy Carluccio

Recently, a Philadelphia City Council member said that he wanted the city to become a "Gas Hub" for Pennsylvania's fracking industry. One of his schemes was to sell the city-owned Philadelphia Gas Works with a claim that a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility could be proposed with the sale. This preposterous proposal to develop an LNG export facility within the city is just one of the many gas infrastructure and processing projects that could come to the Philadelphia area in the coming years (see graphic at right).

In another outrageous idea floated recently, a natural gas pipeline would be buried in the bed of the Delaware River to carry gas to Philadelphia Energy Solutions in South Philly.

The Delaware River is seen by the industry as an invaluable shipping gateway to international markets as they frantically search for ways to sell, store and transport their products. New Jersey or Delaware locations on the Bay are also likely targets for the siting of LNG export plants and other operations.

The industry's heavy hand is already being felt in the lower reaches of the Delaware River Watershed and, if fracking expands in Pennsylvania and the nation, the industry's footprint will expand



exponentially. Already dangerous train routes are being used to ship Bakken shale oil to Philadelphia refineries; natural gas liquids are being piped in from shale country to Sunoco Logistics in the city; and across the River the burgeoning Port of Paulsboro and terminal operations are becoming intertwined with shale gas and oil. But few know much about this invasion. DRN and other organizations have jumped on this emerging issue, one that is calling out for public scrutiny and involvement.

## ADVOCACY SUCCESS: Oxygen petition supported by DRBC committee

In March, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association and the Lehigh River Stocking Association petitioned the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to set, meet and protect oxygen levels in all Delaware Estuary waters at a level that supports not just fish living there, but fish reproduction and growth. Protecting oxygen levels in the Estuary at levels necessary for maintenance and propagation of aquatic life will benefit species such as the Delaware's unique and endangered Atlantic sturgeon. At a summer meeting of DRBC's Water Quality Advisory Committee, it was agreed that there was strong merit in the requests of our petition, and a resolution was passed outlining steps that would be taken in the coming year to act on our petition.



## ***DRN takes legal action to protect fish populations***

*Maya K. Van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper*

In October, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the New Jersey Sierra Club, represented by DRN attorneys, filed a Complaint in Lieu of Prerogative Writs in Superior Court of New Jersey for Mercer County requesting an order demanding that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) take action on PSE&G's permit renewal application for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station in Lower Alloways Creek Township. PSE&G submitted its renewal application for a New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit in February 2006, but NJDEP has yet to make a determination on the application either by issuing a draft permit for public notice and comment, or by denying the permit.

In a parallel action also filed by DRN attorneys, DRN, the Delaware Audubon Society and the Delaware Sierra Club filed for a Writ of Mandamus in Superior Court in Delaware to similarly compel action by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

*In October, DRN filed legal actions in both Delaware and New Jersey to require two industrial facilities on the Delaware Estuary to reduce their fish kills.*

(DNREC). A renewal application for the Delaware City Refinery was submitted in 2002. While DNREC has been engaged in some behind the scenes activity on the application, it has yet to make a determination on the application either by issuing a draft permit for public notice and comment, or by denying the permit.

Salem kills over three billion Delaware River fish and organisms every year; the refinery's toll is over 45 million annually (these figures represent only the few species actually counted by the industry or agency. They do not include the impingement and entrainment deaths of all species affected by the plants).

Salem and the Delaware City Refinery are having devastating and lasting impacts on the Delaware Estuary's ecosystem. For example, taken together, these two

facilities kill 56% of the striped bass in the Delaware River.

The lawsuits to compel agency action are one of many steps that DRN and a coalition of concerned organizations are undertaking as part of our "Stop the Fish Kills" campaign. We are targeting the Salem plant, the Delaware City Refinery and PSEG's Mercer Generating Station because long permitting delays (seven years for Salem, 11 years for the refinery, and two years for Mercer Generating Station) have allowed these industrial facilities to continue using outdated cooling water intake structures that kill billions of fish every year.

Through this legal action, DRN and its partner organizations seek to spur NJDEP and DNREC to issue draft permits that would require the facilities to replace their outdated once-through cooling water intake systems with closed loop or recirculating cooling water intake systems. This could reduce fish kills by nearly 98%, and represents the "best available technology" required by Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act.

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## ***DRN's Shale Truth interview series travels to Boston to discuss LNG export terminals***

*Ed Rodgers*

As part of the *Shale Truth* interview series, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network traveled to Boston in September to talk to an economic expert about the fiscal wisdom of developing liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in the U.S. DRN and other environmental groups oppose development of the terminals in Baltimore, Philadelphia and other areas because the facilities could lead to more shale gas extraction in parts of Pennsylvania where residents are already coping with drinking water contamination and other problems linked to the process.

In Boston, Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum interview Elizabeth Stanton, a senior economist at Synapse Energy, a consulting firm that examines energy and environmental issues. A recent Synapse white paper raised questions about U.S. Department of Energy study touting the economic benefits of developing LNG export facilities. The Synapse assessment says development of the terminals could lead to job losses and higher energy costs.

The interview segments featuring Stanton will be posted on DRN's YouTube channel at [bit.ly/ShaleTruth](http://bit.ly/ShaleTruth). Previous *Shale Truth* interviews have included energy industry analyst Arthur Berman, landscape restoration expert Leslie Sauer and Columbia University professor Anthony Ingraffea.



## Ongoing legal action updates

Aaron Stemplewicz

### Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP)

Final briefs in *DRN et al. v. FERC et al.*, were filed with the D.C. Court of Appeals in August. The court may now either decide the case on the merits, or request that oral argument take place. As the court may take three or more months to decide on whether oral arguments will be necessary, we may not see a final ruling for several months. If the court's final opinion is adverse to DRN's interests, the next step will be determining whether or not to file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

### Stone Energy

Briefing is ongoing in *DRN et al. v. DRBC and Stone Energy*, regarding the sufficiency of the Administrative Record produced by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The case involves DRBC approval of a water withdrawal docket for natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin. DRN submitted its brief in September and a reply brief in October. After initial briefing is completed and the court has ruled on the final Administrative Record, arguments will be made on the merits.

### Transcontinental Gas (Transco) Leidy Southeast Expansion

DRN submitted pre-filing comments as well as a motion to intervene to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in October. This Transco project is a large-scale pipeline upgrade taking place in Monroe and Luzerne counties in Pennsylvania, and Huntington and Mercer counties in New Jersey. DRN anticipates submitting comments, expert reports, and other data to build the record for a potential legal challenge to any forthcoming project approval.

### Columbia Pipeline Group's Eastside Expansion Project

DRN submitted pre-filing comments and anticipates filing a motion to intervene regarding Columbia's Eastside Expansion Project (the project is still in the pre-filing process at FERC). This project is a large-scale pipeline upgrade taking place in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Gloucester County, New Jersey. DRN anticipates submitting comments, expert reports, and other data to build the record for a potential legal challenge to any forthcoming project approval.

***Learn more about these and other projects and how you can take action on our ongoing issues page,***

***[www.delawariverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issues.aspx](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issues.aspx)***

## DRN challenges development that threatens Perkiomen Creek

Nicholas Patton

In June, DRN challenged the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP's) approval of Brookshire Partners' erosion and sediment control planning for construction activities to finish building 45 homes on a 144 acre property in Zionsville. The project site is located immediately adjacent to the Upper Perkiomen Creek, which is designated a High Quality cold water fishery. The Upper Perkiomen is just one of many waterways in the Upper Perkiomen Watershed that DRN (along with other environmental groups, citizens, businesses and county conservation districts) has petitioned to be upgraded to Exceptional Value.

Problematically, the PA DEP failed to ensure that existing water quality was being adequately protected when it approved a permit to discharge stormwater associated with Brookshire's construction activities without first evaluating data contained within DRN's upgrade petition. Also of concern is that the project site was historically used as an apple and peach orchard and meaningful levels of arsenic have been found on the site. Brookshire has also been cited by PADEP 15 times for failures to adequately implement and maintain best management practices demonstrating their disregard for environmental protection.

## Volunteer stream monitors needed

Faith Zerbe

**Goose Creek** - DRN is looking for a few good volunteer monitors to help collect water quality data for this Crum Creek tributary located near West Chester, Pennsylvania.

**Tohickon Creek** - We are in need of a few more volunteers to help fill gaps in our temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring that is underway for this Bucks County stream. Volunteers must be available for monitoring being conducted monthly.

**Upper Perkiomen** - Do you have a favorite stream in the Perkiomen Creek Watershed north of the Green Lane Reservoir? DRN may need help collecting important data to support our upgrade petition.

**Upper Delaware** - A moratorium on drilling remains in effect in our watershed at this time, but DRN is continuing to train volunteers in the proposed shale drilling region to ensure important data is collected for these very clean streams. **A workshop is planned for November 9th, in Callicoon, New York** for headwaters residents who are able to help monitor tributaries.

**For more info, call 215-369-1188, ext. 110 or email [faith@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:faith@delawariverkeeper.org).**

## ***2nd annual Virtual Canoe Race for Young Paddlers to launch on March 31st***

*Stephanie Smith*

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is kicking-off its 2nd annual *Virtual Canoe Race for Young Paddlers*. In honor of Earth Day and in support of our local communities, take a virtual paddle on the Delaware River and watch your canoe move from Hancock, New York, all the way down the 330-mile main stem of the River while winning prizes along the way.

**The Rules.** Participants must:

- Be 14 or younger,
- Able to answer multiple choice questions and complete bonus action items,
- Be excited to have fun and win prizes, and
- Have a kind heart and a willingness to support our most precious resource, the Delaware River.

**The Details**

- The race runs for five weeks, from March 31st to May 5th, with an extra week added to allow paddlers to catch up after holiday or spring breaks.
- Entry fees for individuals are \$10. Fees for a classroom are \$25.
- Prizes will be awarded to the top three young paddlers after Week 2 (midway); Grand prizes will be awarded to the top three young paddlers after Week 5.

If you are a teacher or a school administrator and would like to get your classroom involved, or if you are a parent and would like to sign up your children, please contact [stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org) or call (215)369-1188, ext. 114.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. You can choose to help support our efforts to offer the *Virtual Canoe Race for Young Paddlers*, sponsor a classroom or donate prizes to be given to the winners.

For more information, please visit our calendar page at [www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?id=429](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?id=429).

## ***DRN pirate-themed fundraiser set for March***

*Stephanie Smith*

In March 2014, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will launch its first-ever River Ransom fundraiser. Influential and prominent business leaders in Philadelphia have agreed to be taken captive by pirates of the Delaware River to help raise donations (River Ransom) to support DRN's mission to protect the Delaware River Watershed.

The event will be held right on the Delaware River on the beautiful *Freedom Elite* (little sister to the *Spirit of Philadelphia*). Participants will be picked up from their place of work—for just one hour during their lunch break—and be taken to the *Freedom Elite* which is graciously providing a catered lunch and desserts. All will receive part of the pirates' treasure (chocolate gold coins with DRN's logo), a keepsake photo with one of the pirates, and more.

In advance, participants will be provided with a River Ransom packet which includes helpful fundraising tips, and a personal fundraising website to share with friends and family via Facebook, Twitter and email.

Brace yourself, matey—If someone thinks you're a great person with a good sense of humor and are possibly worth a lot of ransom money, you could be next on the pirates' list!

## ***DRN, All At Once team up on Jack Johnson's 2013 tour***

*Stephanie Smith*

Recently, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network was contacted by All At Once, a social action network created by singer-songwriter Jack Johnson to connect nonprofits with people who want to become active in their local and world communities. During his 2013 tour, Johnson was looking to collaborate with hand-chosen community groups, including DRN, to promote sustainable local food systems, plastic free initiatives, and provide a positive lasting change in communities.

In addition to being able to promote our efforts through All At Once, we were given a challenge. If we could raise at least \$2,500 from our members between August 1st and November 1st, we would receive a matching grant from the Johnson Ohana Foundation, a charity started by Johnson and his wife Kim in 2008.

We asked our members for their support and they responded. **Our dedicated members quickly helped us reach our goal of \$2,500 and secured a matching grant from Johnson Ohana.**

**Thanks to All At Once, Jack Johnson, and OUR MEMBERS for their tremendous support.**

For more information, please visit [www.allatonce.org](http://www.allatonce.org)



*Jack Johnson (center) with DRN's Cliff Biehl (l) and Stephanie Smith (r) at Johnson's concert at the Tower Theater.*



## ***DRN's Run for the River team officially training and raising funds***

Stephanie Smith

For the third year in a row, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been chosen to partner with the Philadelphia Marathon. This year, Marathon Weekend runs from November 15th to November 17th.

Run for the River as you run alongside the River this year! **DRN still has spaces available for runners interested in being part of our *Run for the River* team.**

DRN's *Run for the River* team is an important fundraising and outreach effort for our organization. We recognize the work *Run for the River* team members are putting in and we provide support to help team

members reach their fundraising goals. All funds raised by our *Run for the River* team will directly benefit the River and the communities that love, appreciate and depend upon a healthy watershed.

Interested in running for the River? You have the opportunity to run the Full Marathon (26.2 miles), Half Marathon (13.1 miles) or Rothman Institute 8K on Sunday, November 17th. If you or someone you know would like to become a member of DRN's *Run for the River* team, or if you would like to make a donation to support our runners, please contact [stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org) as soon as possible.

Please visit our calendar page, [www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?Id=404](http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?Id=404), for more information.



## ***Results from Wild Rivers 2013***

Stephanie Smith

Sierra Nevada Brewing Company chose to partner with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network for its *Wild Rivers* campaign for the 3rd year in a row. Under the *Wild Rivers* campaign, a portion of all proceeds from every 12-pack of Sierra Nevada beer purchased was donated to the DRN and other nonprofit river organizations across the country. The goal of the *Wild Rivers* campaign is to encourage folks to keep our waterways clean, clear and WILD!

Because of the hard work put forth by DRN to publicize *Wild Rivers 2013*, and our members' willingness to help by either purchasing 12-Packs of Sierra Nevada or setting up promotional displays for us, sales increased 20% over last year, and Sierra Nevada was able to donate over \$11,000 directly to DRN. We are truly grateful for your support of DRN and the *Wild Rivers* campaign. We cannot wait to start things up for next year. *Wild Rivers 2014*—Here we come!



## ***Help DRN by recycling your e-waste with Planet Green***

Under an e-waste recycling program with Planet Green, your old cell phones, pagers, iPads, tablets, e-readers, mobile hotspots, iPods, MP3 players, digital/video cameras, GPS units, PDAs and inkjet cartridges can be turned into funds to support the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Learn more online at our Planet Green fundraising website: [planetgreenrecycle.com/delawareriverkeeper](http://planetgreenrecycle.com/delawareriverkeeper). Thanks for recycling!





*Sugar maple (Acer saccharum). J. Nystedt*

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