

RIVER RAPIDS

The newsletter of the DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

Winter 2013

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

Photo: T. Carluccio



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A letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper

Citizens speak truth to PA's governor ...Will he listen?

On a beautiful day in August, Governor Corbett decided he was going to kayak down the Delaware River. Feeling personally offended that the Governor would come to enjoy our River even as he was working to open our Watershed to shale gas development and ensuring a Department of Environmental Protection friendly to pipelines, compressors, water withdrawals, wastewater discharges and other infrastructure needs of the gas industry, I was not inclined to let this invasion pass unchallenged. And so I organized an armada to greet him that day to challenge his position on gas drilling and, surrounded by the Delaware's beauty and magic, to challenge him to rethink his positions and actions.

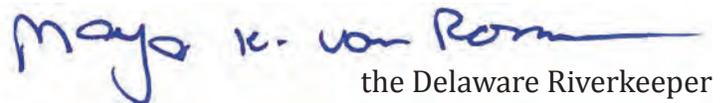
Part way into the trip the Governor and I negotiated a deal: I would stop my verbal onslaught that day, and in the future, the Governor, I and two other people selected by me would meet for one hour. I agreed, but stayed close to Governor Corbett the entire paddle along with our fleet of supporters, all equipped with signs opposing drilling and state flags representing the citizens of our region. And when the Governor spilled into the water and needed help, it was a member of that fleet - my husband in fact - who provided the help necessary to keep a bad situation from becoming very dangerous.

The meeting negotiated that day on the River was set for January 8th, 2013. Thinking about the meeting to come, and having experienced the powerful energy that results when people speak about shale gas development and what it means for their lives and our collective future, I decided to dedicate my one hour to these citizens. We put out a call for video messages and compiled the submissions into a montage we could show Governor Corbett.

Prior to the meeting, some of the Governor's staff expressed resistance to our showing the full video, but we stood firm that the comments by the citizens in the video were not to be just a passing part of the meeting; they were to be THE meeting. When the day of the meeting arrived, we did not know where the Governor would stand on the matter of the video. But when he entered the room it was clear to all that the video would be shown; I had my computer set up and ready to roll.

Initially Governor Corbett inquired if he could ask questions or respond to comments in the video. I asked that he just listen to the comments his constituents had taken the time to prepare for him. To his credit, he did. He both watched and listened. When the video concluded, so too did the meeting.

The impact of our meeting on Governor Corbett is unknown, but I feel that the value of citizens having a chance to speak directly to their governor is a worthy objective unto itself, and it is an objective we achieved.


the Delaware Riverkeeper

To learn more about our meeting with Governor Corbett and the video we showed, turn to page 4.

Upcoming Events

February 23rd, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Camden County Watershed

Stewardship Workshop

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Camden, NJ**

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

This workshop is open to volunteers who want to learn how to better protect their local streams. The event is FREE and suitable for all ages. To register, contact Fred at 215-369-1188, ext. 113.

February 23rd, March 23rd &

April 20th, 9 am - 1:30 pm

Marcellus Shale Stream

Monitoring workshops

**Upper & Middle Delaware River Basin
Locations, TBD**

faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

Learn how to monitor streams to protect them from pipelines and gas drilling.

March 9th, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

2013 Watershed Congress

**Montgomery Co. Community College
Pottstown, PA**

chari@delawareriverkeeper.org

The 2013 program includes sessions on invasive plant control, sustainability, long-term trend water monitoring, the "Ghost of Land Use Past," FEMA buyouts, bio-retention wetlands, protecting Valley Creek, pharmaceuticals in drinking water, shale gas and more. For full details, go to: www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/event.aspx?id=63.

Registration fees: Before February 22nd, \$50 per person; After February 22nd, \$60 per person.

March 16th, 9:00 am - Noon

Petty's Island Trash Liberation

Pennsauken, NJ

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

Space is limited, but the trash is not. Join us as we work to free the shoreline of this future open space preserve of the trash that binds it. Registration is required. Call Fred at 215-369-1188, ext. 113.

For more details on any of these events and activities, contact the Delaware Riverkeeper Network staff person indicated.



April 1st - April 28th

Youth Paddler Virtual Canoe Race

canoerace@delawareriverkeeper.org

DRN is launching a Virtual Canoe Race just for paddlers ages 14 and under. This competition will give young paddlers a chance to shine in fair competition with their peers as they learn about the River and win prizes along the way. For more information, contact Stephanie, 215-369-1188, ext. 114.

Our Yard Signs Help Spread the Word



Expose your friends, neighbors and members of your community to our important messages of watershed protection with the simple but powerful statements made by our custom yard signs. Our yards signs sell for \$5 per sign and must be picked up at our Bristol, PA, office or at a DRN event. Choose from three different messages:

- **Don't Drill the Delaware** (polybag with wire stands). Printed on the reverse: **Don't Be Frackin' Crazy;**
- **River Jobs Are Forever** (corrugated plastic); or
- **Stop the Fracking Pipelines** (polybag with wire stands). Printed on the reverse: **Pipelines: Delivering Pollution 24/7/365.**

March 16th, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Watch-Dogging Fracked Gas Pipelines
Milford, PA**

March 17th, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Watch-Dogging Fracked Gas Pipelines
Monroe, PA**

faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

These workshops are for volunteer monitors willing to do visual assessments.

April 13th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Petty's Is. Botanical & Birding Tour
Pennsauken, NJ**

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

See migratory visitors and resident wild-life waking up from their winter naps. Space is limited. Registration required.

April 26th, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm and

April 27th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Stream School for Volunteer Monitors
Wayne County, PA**

faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

Learn what aquatic insects reveal about stream health in this **two-day workshop**. You must attend both days.

May 18th 9:00 am - Noon

**Newton Creek Litter Clean-up
Haddon Township, NJ**

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

Join other volunteers to clean up this popular park. All tools, gloves and equipment provided.

June 21st to June 23rd

2013 Camping Trip

**French Creek State Park
Elverson, PA**

fred@delawareriverkeeper.org

Activities on DRN's family-oriented camping trip will include paddling, biking, s'mores and more. **There is a fee for this program.**

Coming Soon...

Horseshoe Crab Census

faith@delawareriverkeeper.org

Check the calendar page of our website for information about trips to the Delaware Bay to collect valuable information on the status of the horseshoe crab population.

Straight talk - Pennsylvanians speak out to Governor Corbett about fracking

Ed Rodgers

In early January, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network presented Governor Corbett with a montage of video messages from Pennsylvania residents opposed to shale gas drilling. The videos were collected by DRN, assembled and shown to the Governor by Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum during a State House meeting in Harrisburg on January 8th. The video messages along with Maya van Rossum's description of the meeting can be seen on DRN's YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/7VhDXNEEVCs>.

The idea was to show Governor Corbett the raw emotions of residents who have suffered from the harmful impacts of the shale gas industry as well as those who are concerned about keeping Pennsylvania's water, air and land clean. Many of those who spoke on the videos also opposed planned natural gas pipeline expansions throughout the state. Several physicians also voiced their opposition to a provision of Pennsylvania's Act 13 natural gas law limiting access to information about the chemicals used in the fracking process.

Governor Corbett and several members of his staff agreed to meet with the Delaware Riverkeeper when he faced protestors during a kayak trip in the upper stretch of the Delaware River last August.



See the video messages from Pennsylvanians like Anneke Walsh (above) shown to Governor Corbett at <http://youtu.be/7VhDXNEEVCs>.

"Parks for Cash" plan by PA Legislature Defeated

HB 2224, which began working its way through the Pennsylvania Legislature in Spring 2012, would have removed the court oversight that now prevents municipalities from shortsightedly selling local parks, open spaces, trails and other public lands for quick cash. Unfortunately, little attention was given to HB 2224 or its implications early on and it passed the House 197-0. As the bill moved to the Senate in the fall, greater scrutiny revealed the harm that would result if HB 2224 passed.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network joined with other conservation organizations opposing HB 2224, first urging that it be amended. But even amended the bill left our public lands at risk. DRN encouraged its members to let their senators know their thoughts about selling "parks for cash" and you responded.

HB 2224 was defeated. The Senate never voted on the bill, despite a vote being scheduled. Any attempt to move this kind of legislation again will have to start over in the House in 2013.



Fracktivists at the Farm Show

Rodney Platt (left) and Steve Todd, two of our incredibly dedicated volunteers and fracktivists, helped to educate visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show about how fracking harms farmers and our rural communities. From their efforts and those of other dedicated volunteers and partner groups, DRN generated over 850 signatures calling on Governor Corbett and our elected officials to pass a moratorium on drilling in Pennsylvania.

Thanks go to all the amazing volunteers that made this week long booth possible. If you'd like to become a tabling volunteer for future community events, please contact faith@delawareriverkeeper.org.

Photo: F. Zerbe

Raining gun shot on our recreational river... How is that okay?

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

If a gun club shot at targets in the air causing shot to rain down on a public park or playground, is there any doubt that it would be stopped as inherently unsafe? If a gun club shot in the air over a road causing shot to rain down on convertible cars with their tops down, or cyclists, is there any doubt that the shot cutting into exposed faces, eyes, necks or hands of drivers or cyclists would be considered a major safety risk? Is there any right thinking police officer, agency official or elected politician who thinks either of these scenarios would be okay? Of course not.

So why does the Philadelphia Gun Club get to shoot out over a motorized travel route, a public trail, and a recreational area at the very same time these areas are or could be used by the public? The only difference from the scenarios above is that this playground and travel corridor is the Delaware River, a river used by paddlers, fishers, birders and fast moving motor boats.

The Gun Club has rigged a heavy curtain to hide their actions on the site, but it does not protect river users from the rain of shot. The curtain does nothing to stop shot from the point guards that stand and shoot openly from the banks of the River.

Up to 12 times a year, the Gun Club shoots out over the Delaware River. During shoots, anyone boating, fishing, or otherwise enjoying the River is at risk from a rain of shot. Boaters in open boats with no face, eye, neck or body protection power through the area at their own risk. Kayakers sitting still on the water have been injured when hit by falling shot. If a kayaker sitting still can get injured, imagine the harm to a person traveling at a high rate of speed on a motor boat who happened to run into a rain of shot.

We have witnessed first-hand power boats travelling with the driver exposed and powering through the area right by the gun club during the time of a shoot. And yet the Coast Guard, township police and other officials do nothing to stop the harm. This is not a gun rights issue; this is a safety issue that can and should be addressed. It's time to stop this hazard.

Please sign a statement of concern and let public officials know that this safety hazard is not acceptable and that you expect them to act to protect those enjoying our recreational River. For more information, go to <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=135>.

DRN is part of lawsuit to stop harm from Susquehanna-Roseland lines

Fred Stine

No agency has stepped up to assess the total and cumulative impacts of the 147 mile Susquehanna-Roseland power line project. Seventy-two miles of the proposed power lines are within the Delaware River Basin. Both the National Park Service (NPS) and Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) could have undertaken a cumulative impact assessment, but they instead chose to assess only the 4.3 miles of the project that traverses the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA).

The NPS's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded that the chosen route, Alternative Route 2, is the most damaging to the DWGNRA's wetlands and other natural resources. The DRBC ignored the fact that this project crosses many Delaware River tributaries outside the park. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and partners have filed a lawsuit in federal court against the NPS based on their EIS finding and mitigation plan. Read more about the lawsuit here: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/FINAL%20press%20release%20for%20PI%2012-6.pdf>.

DRN's threat to sue asphalt company results in strong enforcement

Nick Patton

In June 2012, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network gave notice of its intent (NOI) to sue the American Asphalt Company for violations of the federal Clean Water Act. The company was discharging contaminated stormwater from its site in gross exceedance of permit limitations. DRN then began its 60 day wait - the Clean Water Act provides that citizen groups cannot file suit against violators of the Act until 60 days from the date notice is sent. Prior to the 60th day, DRN's NOI caught the eye of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP), causing the agency to step in and institute enforcement efforts against American Asphalt. Ultimately, NJ DEP required the company to implement a number of best management practices to bring its discharges into compliance and fined the company \$46,000 to ensure that the environmental violations were not simply a cost of doing business.

Pipeline proliferation a growing battleground

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

On December 5th, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) put on a stunning display of disregard for their duty to protect the River for the benefit of us all as well as for the public's right to be heard on issues that impact their fate. On that Wednesday, through votes on two crucial measures, DRBC rejected their right to exercise authority over the many pipelines that are proposed to cut through our rivers, communities and watershed. The agency gave no notice that the votes would be on their agenda and no opportunity for public comment was provided at their meeting or before hand.

The implications of the DRBC's careless decisions, made with no public notice, comment or hearing, are far reaching. There are already 13 pipeline projects proposed for the Delaware River Watershed. They will impact thousands of acres—perhaps tens of thousands of acres—of residential and forest lands. These pipelines will cut through hundreds, perhaps thousands, of streams and wetlands. They will slice through private residential communities as well as protected lands purchased and donated for the benefit of the public.

One proposed pipeline, the Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP), would cut through Pike, Wayne and Sussex counties in our watershed. As proposed, wetlands will be denuded, developed and irreversibly damaged. Forested lands would be cleared to create pipeline access roads. In all, NEUP would cut through:

- Residential communities, public and private lands,
- At least 128 streams,
- 29,468 linear feet and 54.6 acres of wetlands, and
- 53.1 acres of lands including forested lands.

Another 46.8 acres would be devastated to accommodate the work space needed for pipeline installation. Included in this acreage are lands that support 100-year-old mature forests.

In the Delaware River Watershed, from just NEUP, we are looking at 24.47 miles of pipeline:

- Impacting 450 acres of land,
- Crossing 1,729 feet of 90 waterbodies, mostly using the open cut method of stream crossing, and
- Crossing 17,777 feet of 136 wetlands.

We would also see the construction of at least 29 access roads. Most of the streams and wetlands that will be impacted are among the highest quality in

Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

This is an example of the level of harm that we will be exposed to from just one pipeline. These are the harms that DRBC specifically refused to consider. And NEUP is just one of at least 13 pipeline projects now proposed to impact our Watershed and region. The Commonwealth Pipeline Project, which will travel through Chester, Berks, Schuylkill and other counties shows us how close to highly residential areas of our Watershed the pipeline companies are prepared to go.

Recognizing the abundance of harms these pipelines present individually and collectively for our communities and Watershed, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has submitted a petition to DRBC, supported by 52 organizations, asking them to review the pipeline projects. The DRBC vote rejecting this petition was one of those cast on that fateful December day. We have also challenged state permits issued to NEUP. We have gone to court in the District of Columbia to challenge the decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission allowing NEUP to move forward. And now we find ourselves joining forces with the State of Pennsylvania to defend a request for injunction filed by a pipeline company against us and our legal team.

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP), the transmission company behind NEUP, is asserting that the federal government has fully occupied the field of pipeline regulation; state permits cannot be challenged through the normal state process. The decision on TGP's challenge will have ramifications for all pipeline projects nationwide if it is found that state permitting challenges are not subject to the usual rules.

Meetings held in Warwick Township (Chester County, PA) to discuss the Commonwealth Pipeline Project have begun and been enthusiastically attended. Interested in getting involved? To learn about future meetings, check the calendar page on our website: <http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/about/calendar.aspx>.

Strange irony or bad karma?

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper

On the Delaware River Deepening Project, the State of Pennsylvania backed the Army Corps's argument that the State of Delaware's environmental laws were unenforceable and irrelevant for the river deepening project. In the debates over NEUP, the pipeline companies are now similarly claiming that state laws and process do not apply equally to interstate pipelines projects.

Isn't it ironic that, after Pennsylvania supported the position that the State of Delaware's environmental protection authority to regulate the deepening project should be minimized, even stripped, the State of Pennsylvania now finds itself the one at risk of being stripped of its full legal rights and authority.

In both cases, it was the Delaware Riverkeeper Network standing to defend the environmental protection rights and obligations of the states to fully enforce their laws and protect their citizens. We lost the argument for the deepening; let's hope we don't lose it for pipelines.

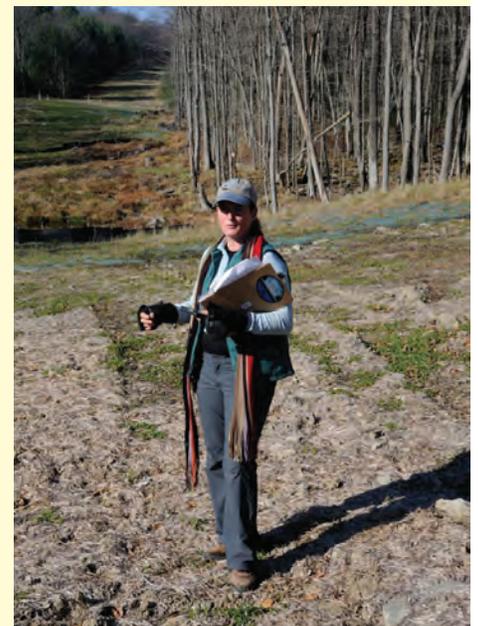
Communities in the upper Delaware River Watershed have benefitted from Delaware Riverkeeper Network sponsored trainings to learn how they can legally and effectively exercise their First Amendment rights regarding pipelines.

Concerned citizens see pipeline impacts first-hand

Top right: A November pipeline tour reveals long-term environmental damage that resulted from Tennessee Gas Pipeline's 300 Line Project. **Bottom right:** DRN's Monitoring Director Faith Zerbe leads the 300 Line Project pipeline tour. **Bottom left:** Characteristic wetlands proposed to be cut and trenched by the Northeast Upgrade Project.



Photos: S. Rando



2012 Virtual Canoe Race Highlights

Stephanie Smith

This past fall, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network launched its inaugural Virtual Canoe Race. The race kicked off September 30, 2012, and ran for six weeks (seven weeks if you count the one week extension due to the hurricane). But even Hurricane Sandy couldn't keep our racers from competing and paddling their hearts out.

Each week, participants were challenged to answer 10 multiple choice questions, write extra credit essays, submit photographs and answer additional questions provided by our sponsors. Correct answers earned river miles. Racers were given opportunities to name their canoe, and every time a question was answered correctly, they could watch their canoes travel farther along the river map displayed on the Virtual Canoe Race website, <http://www.delawarerivercanoeing.org>.

Prizes were awarded to the top three winners after the two-week mark and the midway point. Grand prizes were awarded at the end of the race. Prizes included - but were not limited to - restaurant gift cards, theater tickets, huge gift baskets, photo session giveaways, picture packages, fishing equipment and cash.

The rest is history!



Left: 1st place Grand Prize winner Cindy Pierson. Center: 2nd place Grand Prize winner Liz Pierson. Right: All participants received a Virtual Canoe Race T-shirt and paddlers case.

Photos: left and center, S. Smith; right, D. Murphy

To our sponsors, "Thank You!"

Whole Foods Market: A mission-driven company that maintains quality standards to offer natural and organic products while supporting sustainable agriculture.

Daydreamer - Photography By Carissa Dubois: Based out of southern New Jersey, photographer Carissa Dubois turned her passion into a career. She specializes in all types of photography and prefers the natural lighting of the outdoors.

Email Devils: Provides a website that teaches folks the basics of email etiquette while helping friends and colleagues use email as an effective tool and not a burden to our inbox.

McCaffrey's: Your local mom-and-pop market offers the freshest and highest quality products available and prides itself in having exceptional service to satisfy your "SUPERmarket" experience.

In Memory Of Malcolm "Angus" Ross: To be remembered for his love for the River and how he fought for its health and purity.

Our sponsors respect the value of a clean and healthy River for us all to enjoy and so supported our first-ever Virtual Canoe Race.

What people are saying about our first Virtual Canoe Race

"The Canoe Race has brought us closer together. There is constant competitive friendly banter around the house now and a race to answer questions as soon as they're posted on Sunday night." — Cindy and Liz Pierson, New Jersey, 1st and 2nd place Grand Prize winners and also a mother and daughter competing against one another

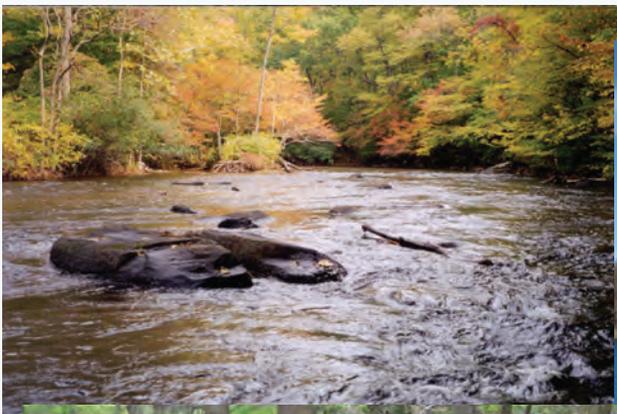
"Thanks for organizing - a great race and we learned a lot. Thankfully, virtual blisters heal quickly!" — Liz Rosenbaum, Pennsylvania

"I had fun playing in the canoe race – hope you do it again next year." — Cathy Frankenberg of Appalachian Mountain Club, Pennsylvania

"I didn't know as much about the River as I thought I did. THIS IS HARD." — Joan Hart, New Jersey

"I was planning to send these answers in when I took the photo, but the competitors are breathing down my neck." — John Brunner, Pennsylvania, 3rd place Grand Prize winner rushed to submit extra credit answers, but joked about the other competitors

Photos submitted by participants during our 2012 Virtual Canoe Race



Clockwise from top left: Musconetcong River, Point Mountain Park; New Hope-Lambertville Route 202 Toll Bridge; Delaware River at Penn's Landing; West Branch of the Delaware River between Deposit and Hancock, NY.

Photos, clockwise from top left: J. Brunner, B. Kelly, J. Golas and J. Bartholomew

Attention Young Paddlers...A Virtual Canoe Race just for you!

On April 1st, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will be launching a Virtual Canoe Race specifically catered to paddlers ages 14 and under. This competition will give our young paddlers a chance to shine in fair competition with their peers as they learn about the River and win prizes along the way.

Don't worry, adult paddlers! We will be offering a chance for you to compete again later this year.

For more information or to check for updates, please contact Stephanie, 215-369-1188, ext. 114, or stephanie@delawareriverkeeper.org.



Please take the Pledge of Protection for the Delaware River Watershed

Shale gas development bring us damage at a price far higher than any benefit it can claim. Drilling and fracking poison our water; take land both public and private; devastate home values; and contaminate our food, farms, crops and livestock.

And with energy companies carrying out their plans to liquefy the gas and send it to foreign countries, our ongoing dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuels is all but assured. Other countries will be using the gas and building their own technical expertise in alternative energy sources while the gas drillers seek to keep America dependent on dirty fossil fuels including shale gas.

All of this is unnecessary because there are other options – energy efficiency, solar, wind, geothermal, and appropriate water energy development that create high paying jobs which will last generations while preserving our air, water, food and communities.

Communities, states and nations are working hard to defend themselves from the harms inflicted by shale gas drilling, fracking, pipelines, compressors, and supporting infrastructure. Every success is the result of individuals who are willing to stand up and be counted, alone and with others.

Please join citizens from all over the region who are standing together to protect their communities by protecting the rivers, lands, air and communities that sustain us all. Please join us in the pledge of protection. Learn more at www.pledgeofprotection.org.



Photo: F. Zerbe

I Take This Pledge of Resistance & Protection.

I Pledge in Solidarity to Resist shale gas development and all the drilling, fracking, land clearing, water withdrawals, pipelines, compressors, and infrastructure, and destruction it brings to the living communities of the Delaware River Watershed.

I Pledge to Protect the Delaware River's watershed, forests, streams, and wetlands that are the life-giving source of water for over 17 million people, and plants and animals with whom we share this earth.

I Pledge to Protect public health from the large amounts of cancer-causing and climate-changing air, water and land pollution emitted from fracking, drilling, their infrastructure and activities.

I Pledge to Protect the livelihoods, healthy food, farms, ecological systems, education, recreation, art, and jobs that are irreplaceable and dependent on a healthy Delaware River.

In making this pledge I state my firm, honest and informed belief that:

- shale gas development including horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking is an accident-prone, inherently dangerous industrial process with risks that include catastrophic and irremediable environmental damage;
- the risks of shale gas development cannot be properly resolved, nor can they be mitigated through regulation by any government agency;
- there is ample science and experience to demonstrate the real and potential harms that shale gas extraction and its associated activities and infrastructure pose to the health of present and future generations including the health, safety and well-being of our bodies, water, air, food, and the quality of our homes, communities, and lives;
- it is wrong to destroy natural lands, streams, wetlands, forests, habitats and watersheds for gas wells, pipelines and infrastructure; to pollute the air, to deplete and pollute billions of gallons of surface and ground water, and to contaminate communities with noise, light, traffic and pollution in order to drill and frack for gas;
- it is wrong to expose ourselves, our communities and future generations to the degradation that gas development brings through its extraction, delivery, processing and use including increasing methane pollution that accelerates – does not diminish – the impacts of climate change and prevents needed investment in true energy security that is provided by energy conservation coupled with renewable, efficient and economically sustainable energy sources;
- the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Governors of the states of the Delaware River Watershed, the President of the United States, and our state and national political leaders have a solemn legally and morally binding obligation to current and future generations to:
 - protect the Delaware River and its watershed from all industrial practices, land clearing, water withdrawals, waste discharges, construction, drilling, fracking and infrastructure, such as pipelines and air compressors, associated with extracting shale gas; and
 - invest in and ensure energy conservation and the use of truly sustainable sources of energy to light, warm and fuel our future.

I make this pledge because:

- * The Delaware River is an irreplaceable source of drinking water for 17 million people.
- * The Delaware River, its tributaries and watershed ecosystems support a multi-billion dollar ecotourism industry and all the jobs associated with them.
- * The Delaware River and its watershed communities and resources provide educational, recreational, and health benefits to people from throughout the region, nation and world.
- * The Delaware River is part of the Atlantic Flyway and guides the annual migration of a multitude of species – gracing our skies with their beauty and courage.
- * The Delaware River is host and home to irreplaceable species like the horseshoe crab that is not only a critical part of the food chain, but also provides an irreplaceable substance that ensure vaccines and medical devices used throughout the nation are safe and healing.
- * The Delaware River Watershed is home to spectacular landscapes and archaeological treasures like the Water Gap National Recreation Area and the rich history of the Lenape.
- * The Delaware River is an irreplaceable gem in the fabric and health of our communities and lives; it is the heart of our watershed, our region and our communities.

Hence I Pledge that ...

If the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware or Maryland, the President of the United States, or any of our state or national leaders permit any processes or infrastructure in support of shale gas development in any part of the Delaware River Watershed, I pledge to join with others to engage in lawful non-violent acts of protest, including demonstrations and other lawful non-violent actions, as my conscience leads me.

I make this pledge to prevent the destruction and poisoning of the water, air, lands, natural systems and food systems, on which life, health and economic prosperity all depend—including those of future generations.

Signed _____, on this day _____

(Signature)

(Date)



Pompeston Creek, Riverton, New Jersey. Photo: C. Pierson

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
215-369-1188
www.delawariverkeeper.org

River Rapids is published for members of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.