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For more information:

Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth, 610-678-7726

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188 x 104

Sam Bernhardt, Food & Water Watch, 267-428-1903

DEP Declares Drought Watch in 27 Counties; PA Against Fracking Asks, “Why Are You Still Allowing Drilling?”

New Infographic Shows Overlap of Drilling and Drought

Harrisburg, Pa: Last week’s declaration of a drought watch in 27 counties announced by the Department of Environmental Protection begs the question of how the Wolf administration can justify the use of millions of gallons of water per day for fracking when drinking water may be in short supply. Pennsylvanians Against Fracking compared the counties included in the watch and found that they are all counties in which drilling has occurred or are in proximity of them. Several key findings below are summarized on a [new infographic](#) the coalition has created.

Key findings:^{i ii}

- Of the 27 counties, 18 (Bradford, Cambria, Clinton, Columbia, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Westmoreland, and Wyoming) are among the counties where conventional or unconventional drilling operations have occurred since 2003.
- 15 of the 18 (Bradford, Cambria, Clinton, Columbia, Indiana, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming) are in the Susquehanna River Basin.
- The remaining 9 counties (Berks, Carbon, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, and Union) are in proximity of the other 18 and are all at least partially in the Susquehanna River Basin.
- Of the 40,893 conventional and unconventional wells drilled since 2003, 17,114 or 42% are in counties under the drought watch.
- Of the 31,863 conventional wells drilled since 2003, 11,772 or 37% are in counties under the drought watch.
- Of the 9,030 unconventional wells drilled since 2003, 5,342 or 59% are in counties under the drought watch.
- Six counties (Bradford, Washington, Susquehanna, Lycoming, Green, and Tioga) account for 71% of unconventional wells. Four of the six (Bradford, Susquehanna, Lycoming, and Tioga) are under the drought watch.

