



Statement of Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Commitment Regarding Pipelines

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network does not believe in shale gas development in any community — we have successfully secured a moratorium on shale gas development in the Delaware River watershed because of our strong advocacy and legal work, including work we began 20 years ago that secured the Special Protection Waters designation for 197 miles of the Delaware River, which is the underpinning of that moratorium.

We also work daily to help other communities outside of the watershed protect themselves from this devastating practice that cannot be made safe.

Among our efforts is opposing all pipelines that feed, fuel, and/or support shale gas development and the end users of fracked gas.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has even taken our advocacy to the courts to challenge both drilling and pipelines.

If you want to see the Delaware Riverkeeper, Maya van Rossum, and our organization in action on the pipeline issue to see how committed we are, watch this video as we lead a protest against pipelines in a regulatory forum where those in charge were repeatedly trying to shut Maya and DRN down:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9N66PPriB0>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv-njXExUWk>

We are currently battling 12 pipeline projects that are poised to go through our watershed, or are in the process of cutting their devastating path. And that is the reason for putting forth the alternative positive action that Congress could choose instead of its decimation of state and federal protections through HR 1900.

For those instances when all of our committed advocacy and our litigation in the courts don't succeed in preventing a pipeline, we think there should be better laws that reduce to the degree possible the level of devastation they inflict on our communities, natural resources, and future generations. When pipelines do cut through, there are ways to dramatically reduce the level of devastation and harm they inflict, and it is important and powerful to have a position that says when a pipeline cuts through, when we lose that battle to prevent it, it must do so using the construction and planning practices that avoid as much harm as possible.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215)369-1181
drn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

Also, strategically, it is important to raise the bar on planning for pipelines as we call for; there are a number of pipelines that just through an objective look would be killed because they clearly don't make any sense – they are mere competition among competing companies all vying for the same gas and path. And including a prohibition on cutting through public lands like our national and state forests is a meaningful and powerful tool not only to protect those resources but to raise the bar that might make a project simply undoable.

So there is good, solid and important strategic thought in the ask in that it can help prevent projects as well as minimize harms for communities in those instances when we do not succeed in preventing them. And, it is also an opportunity to educate legislators about those harms — getting them to think about better construction practices and planning also forces them to know and acknowledge the level of devastation inflicted, and in so doing brings them along to a place where maybe they will help us stand against these projects and against shale gas development, rather than finding ways to grease the wheels for it all to happen.

We hope this information helps, and we invite you to visit our website (www.delawareriverkeeper.org), and particularly our page with a wealth of information regarding pipelines:
(<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/river-action/ongoing-issue-detail.aspx?Id=51>)

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