

August 1, 2021

Brigadier General Thomas J. Tickner
Chair of the Delaware River Basin Commission
North Atlantic Division
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252-6700

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Vice Chairman of the Delaware River Basin Commission
Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Governor John Carney
Member of the Delaware River Basin Commission
Office of the Governor
Tatnall Building
150 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd South
Dover, DE 19901

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Member of the Delaware River Basin Commission
Office of the Governor
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Governor Phillip D. Murphy
Member of the Delaware River Basin Commission
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: “Fracking with Forever Chemicals” report and video recording of forum “Why Does Frack Wastewater Threaten Public Health?”

Dear Delaware River Basin Commission Members,

The organizations that make up the Delaware River Frack Ban Coalition Organizing Committee hosted a webinar forum on July 21, 2021 entitled “Why Does Frack Wastewater Threaten Public Health?” The focus was the newly released report “Fracking with Forever Chemicals” by Dusty Horwitt for Physicians for Social Responsibility. The report can be accessed here: <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/fracking-with-forever-chemicals.pdf>

The report was broken as a lead story in the New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/12/climate/epa-pfas-fracking-forever-chemicals.html>

We also share with you a link to the Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial that followed the report's release, calling on Pennsylvania to take action:

<https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Phila%20Inq%20Editorial%20Board%20Discovers%20PFAS%20in%20PA%20Fracking%20%282021-08-05%29.pdf>

Subsequent to that editorial, the Philadelphia Inquirer Board published these findings, which confirm that PFAS have been used in fracking Pennsylvania gas wells:

<https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Phila%20Inquirer%20Editorial%20PFAS%20in%20Fracking%20%282021-07-15%29.pdf>

We are sharing a recording of our webinar with you, as DRBC Commissioners, to view. The link to the forum is here: <https://youtu.be/-0RyUnLwp5c>. We respectfully request that you find time to watch the recording, which lasts about an hour, to hear directly from the author of the report, who discusses the relevance to Pennsylvania and the Delaware River Basin.

Since all the Delaware River Watershed states are grappling with PFAS contamination of water supplies and the environment, we consider this report to be of heightened interest to you. As you know, closing off the pathways of pollution for PFAS is one of the most important efforts ongoing by the regulatory community and one that we know you are engaged in through various state-led efforts. The discovery of PFAS in fracking fluid, and the likelihood that wastewater produced by fracking will contain these PFAS compounds, is a shocking discovery that supports our advocacy for a full ban on the import of wastewater produced by fracking into the watershed for processing, storage, discharge and disposal.

Thank you for considering this important report. We ask that you consider these findings as you prepare to issue the draft natural gas regulations by September 30 of this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Berks Gas Truth, Karen Feridun

Catskill Mountainkeeper, Wes Gillingham

Clean Water Action, Eric Benson

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Barbara Arrindell

Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Tracy Carluccio

Environment New Jersey, Doug O'Malley

Food & Water Action, Eric Weltman

New Jersey Sierra Club, Taylor McFarland, Acting Director

Wilmington Delaware, Coralie Pryde

CC:

Steve Tambini, Executive Director, DRBC

Pam Bush, Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel