



For Immediate Release  
December 5, 2012

Contact:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215 369 1188 ext 102 (rings office and cell)

## **Delaware River Basin Commission Rejects Petition to Review Pipelines**

*West Trenton, NJ:* In response to a request for a hearing submitted on August 9 and a petition submitted on September 12 by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and signed on to by 52 environmental, civic, community and faith organizations (list below) the Delaware River Basin Commission officially rejected the request that it exercise its existing authority over pipelines.

There are 13 new pipeline projects (including expansions) proposed for portions of the Delaware River watershed. There is no state or federal agency that is considering the cumulative impact of all of these new projects. The DRBC is the one agency that has the jurisdiction and mission that would support a cumulative impacts assessment and ensure compliance with special protection water regulations of the agency.

“DRBC’s decision not to review pipeline projects is pure cowardice; the agency is more interested in protecting contributions to its budget from the states than carrying forth the mission for which it was created, which is to protect the water resources of the Delaware River Basin for us all, not the gas drillers and pipeline companies,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, of the decision made. “Pipelines are a known and growing source of air pollution that is contributing to climate change, to water pollution from polluted runoff, and to the devastation of wetlands, streams, and healthy forests critical for flood and species protection. They are also responsible for the increased taking of private and public lands through the exercise and/or threat of their eminent domain authority. They are the big bully partners of the gas drillers and it is sad to see the DRBC duck their responsibilities.”

According to a map created to be handed out by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network at the meeting, new pipelines and expansions are proposed to cut through the counties of:

- ✘ Berks, Chester, Delaware, Lebanon, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne, Counties in Pennsylvania;
- ✘ Gloucester, Hunterdon and Sussex Counties in New Jersey;
- ✘ New Castle and Kent Counties in Delaware; and
- ✘ Broome, Delaware, Orange and Sullivan Counties in New York.

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

In addition to the petition with the sign-ons of 52 organizations, 12 Pennsylvania legislators submitted their letters urging the DRBC to exercise its jurisdiction including Representative Greg Vitali, Representative John Galloway, Representative Mark Cohen, Representative Mike O'Brien, Representative Phyllis Mundy, Representative Michael Sturla, Representative Matt Bradford, Representative Pam DeLissio, Representative Tina Davis, Representative Harry Readshaw, Representative Brendan Boyle, Representative Margo Davidson.

Organizations that signed on to the petition submitted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network include:

Aquashicola / Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy	NO Gas Pipeline
Blue Mountain Preservation Association, Inc.	North Jersey Pipeline Walkers
Brandywine Conservancy Brandywine Watershed Regeneration Initiative	North Jersey Public Policy Network
Bus for Progress	NY Friends of Clearwater
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy	NYH20, Inc.
Catskill Mountainkeeper	Pascack Sustainability Group
Citizens for a Clean Pompton Lakes	Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group
Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries	Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Clean Ocean Action	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Mama LLC	Philadelphia
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline	Pipeline Safety Coalition
Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club	Protecting Our Waters
Cross County Clean Air Coalition	Raritan Headwaters Association
CWA Local 1081	Raymond Proffit Foundation
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability	Save Cummins Hill
Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club	ShaleTest.org
Delaware River Greenway Partnership	Stop The Pipeline
Earthworks	United for Action
Environment New Jersey	
Food and Water Watch	
Frack Action	
Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice	
Green Party of Camden County	
Green Party of Essex/Passaic Counties	
Green Party of Philadelphia	
GreenLine Paper Company, Inc.	
Guardians of the Brandywine, Inc.	
Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	
Multi-State Alliance Preserving Lasting Energy (M.A.P.L.E.)	
National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	
New Jersey Highlands Coalition	
NJ Environmental Federation	
NJ Sierra Club	