



For Immediate Release
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Rally to Challenge Natural Gas Drilling and Seek Full Moratorium at Delaware River Basin Commission Planned for Wednesday, July 14, 1:00 pm

West Trenton, NJ – The representatives of four states (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware) and the federal government that make up the five voting members of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold their regular public meeting on July 14 at [West Trenton Volunteer Fire Company](#) in West Trenton, N.J. to consider, among other things, what steps to take in regulating natural gas drilling in the Marcellus shale within our region..

In response, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has called for a rally outside of the Fire House at 1:00 pm before the 1:30 pm meeting convenes to call for a COMPLETE and TOTAL moratorium on all natural gas related projects within their jurisdiction in the Delaware River Watershed. The DRBC is expected to vote at the meeting on the first water withdrawal application for natural gas well drilling and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in the Watershed.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network reports that organizations and residents from throughout the Watershed will be in attendance and will participate in the DRBC’s public comment session. According to Delaware Riverkeeper Network representatives, people are journeying several hours from the Poconos and the Catskills in the Upper Delaware, the Lehigh Valley, and New York City, and will be caravanning from Philadelphia, the Schuylkill River Watershed, Bucks County, Wilmington, and from throughout New Jersey.

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People will be calling for a complete and total moratorium on all natural gas projects, including Stone Energy's water withdrawal for .70 million gallons per day from the West Branch of the Lackawaxen River in Wayne County, classified by Pennsylvania as High Quality Waters and a Cold Water Fishery; Stone plans to use the water to frack their gas wells.

"We want a full moratorium on gas drilling to remain in place while the DRBC conducts a comprehensive study of the cumulative impacts of gas development in the Watershed and until the natural gas specific regulations that the DRBC is developing are in place" says Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

"This common sense approach is required due to the vulnerability of the exceptional water quality of the Delaware, its living ecosystems and outstanding resources, and to protect the drinking water supply for over 15 million people. The DRBC needs to completely stop this headlong race for gas so that precautionary planning and regulation can be adopted to protect communities and prevent pollution and degradation of our irreplaceable Delaware River", says van Rossum.

For more information on gas drilling go to: www.delawareriverkeeper.org

For bus information in the Upper Delaware Watershed: www.catskillmountiankeeper.org

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