



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PENNSYLVANIA

226 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-3220
717.234.1576

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Oral Testimony
of the
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
in regard to
Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations
of the
Delaware River Basin Commission

I'm Andrea Mulrine, president of the League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County, and I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our members throughout the Commonwealth.

We question how you can decide the fate of our majestic resource, the Delaware River Basin, when the evidence is still out? The EPA study is not yet completed. The research on the cumulative and long-term impacts of hydrofracturing remains unfinished. What's the rush? Once you reach the verdict on these regulations, life-altering consequences will ensue.

The Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees in Article 1, Section 27 that:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.

Please protect these rights today and for generations yet to come.

As a result of our state-wide, year long study, the League developed a position on natural gas extraction from Marcellus Shale. Our position calls for:

*The **maximum** protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas production, site restoration, and delivery to the customer, by requiring the use of best practices and promoting comprehensive regulation, communication, and adequate staffing across government agencies.*

The League commends the Commission for seeking broad-based public input through this series of public hearings. But the draft regulations are a mere starting point. We know that economic and political influences are being brought to bear on the issue before you.

We ask that your deliberations be reflective of public input and the scientific studies yet to be completed. We ask you to ensure that the process is transparent. Finally, we hope that your decision making will model good governance that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.