

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

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Town of Colchester Comments DRBC Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations

My name is Robert Homovich.

I am Supervisor of the Town of Colchester and Delaware County Budget Director. The Town of Colchester has the NYC Pepacton Reservoir which is the largest reservoir in NYC's water supply system, 140 billion gallons.

For DRBC to have credibility as a fair and honest broker for all of stake holders in the Delaware River Basin, you cannot treat one stake holder's issue above the others. To think you can hold the Salt Line for Philadelphia by using the Delaware River to hold back the ocean is distain to fail. When you signed the MOA with NYC that gave them an unfair advantage over the rest of the stake holders.

The DRBC should be the oversight commission over natural gas development, not a player. NYSDEC has the authority and record that they have the expertise to regulate natural gas development. NYSDEC has administered natural gas development for over 60 years with an excellent history of protecting the environment and energy needs of the citizens of NYS.

The DBRC duplicating the permitting process already done by NYSDEC, as you know would make the economics' of natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin financially prohibited. This would deprive the residents of the basin the energy and economic opportunity they so desperately need to survive.

If the DRBC is going to be a player on the ground, then what commission would assume the oversight responsibility to verify what you are doing is correct.

The DRBC does not have the staff with the expertise or record to regulate and permit the natural gas development.

The DRBC draft regulations on natural gas development are clearly a bureaucratic means to stop natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin.

Last year I advised Mr. Robert Tutor, Deputy Executive Director, of the economic stress Delaware County was experiencing. With 1/3 of our population on unduplicated public assistance we are in a non sustainable situation.

Natural gas resource provides the only economic opportunity that will improve our economy so that we will survive.

If the DRBC, EPA, DOH, NYC and the environmentalists don't want to see natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin then pay the land owners for their mineral rights, don't just steal them.

In conclusion I would like to say that the experiment to create a world model made for a living and thriving watershed has failed. This experiment has destroyed our economy and social way of life. Each of you has a shared responsibility for this disaster. This experiment failed because you never considered the rights of the watershed residents.