

TOWN OF DEPOSIT

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RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER
BASIN COMMISSION

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March 25, 2011

Carol Collier, Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
P.O. Box 7360
Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Re: Public Comment Concerning DRBC Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations

Dear Ms. Collier,

My name is Thomas Axtell and I am the Supervisor for the Town of Deposit, located in Delaware County, New York on the West Branch of the Delaware River. Even though I was able to attend and present comments concerning the proposed DRBC Regulations at the February 22, 2011 public hearing held in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, the two minute time allowance prevented me from presenting all of the points I wished to convey to the DRBC. As I stated at the public hearing, it is my opinion that the proposed DRBC Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations are redundant and not needed. There currently exists a multitude of Federal and State regulations in place that will adequately monitor the natural gas drilling. I refer you to the DRBC fact sheet dated 12/9/10, specifically the paragraph entitled "Strategic Regulatory Framework" which clearly states that the DRBC primarily relies on the oil and gas programs and experienced staff of the state in which the natural gas well is located to manage well construction and operation. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will soon release their proposed regulations for natural gas production. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental is already allowing for natural gas drilling in the Susquehanna River Basin. In addition, the natural gas industry is further regulated by the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act to name a few. There are enough Federal and State regulations to adequately oversee and monitor natural gas drilling operations.

There also continues to be concern voiced over the types of fluid chemical compounds used in the fracturing process. Many of the compounds used are already used in non-drilling productions. Some of the various products used in fracturing are commonly used in swimming pool chemicals and cleaning agents, pharmaceuticals, acrylic fiber and

plastics, food additives, disinfectants, sterilizers for medical and dental equipment, common household cleaners, de-icers, cosmetics of all types, hair and skin products, glass cleaners and many more. Where do these compounds end up after use? Generally, they go back into home septic systems and eventually back to local aquifers or into municipal septic and waste water treatment plants for processing and then back into the water courses. These municipal plants are also heavily regulated by the same agencies that will oversee the drilling for natural gas. We do not need another layer of bureaucracy that will cause further delay in drilling. Further delays will also have a negative economic impact on areas expecting drilling to begin. Bradford County, Pennsylvania is already experiencing a strong economic revival with more, higher paying jobs, increased sales tax revenue and increased tax base which is helping lessen the tax burden on its residents. I would encourage DRBC officials to visit that area and talk with local government officials concerning any perceived need for more regulations. Thank you.


Thomas A. Axtell, Supervisor