



## NEW HOPE BOROUGH

123 NEW STREET  
NEW HOPE, BUCKS COUNTY, PA 18938

RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION

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2011 MAR 31 P 1:58

LAURENCE D. KELLER  
MAYOR

SHARYN KEISER  
PRESIDENT

CLAIRE SHAW  
VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN BURKE  
BOROUGH MANAGER

March 25, 2011

Ms. Carol R. Collier  
Executive Director  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
P.O. Box 7360, 25 State Police Drive  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Ms. Collier:

Re: Natural Gas Development Regulations - DRAFT

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is charged with maintaining the exceptional water quality that now exists in the River and to improve it where it needs help. The draft rules do not protect individual wells nor do they address the cumulative impacts of water withdrawal and well development. In addition, there is no method proposed to control the accumulated environmental toll that natural gas drilling, land transformation, and water depletion and pollution will take on habitats, streams, communities and the River.

I am concerned about my drinking water, the Wild and Scenic Delaware, and the future of the Watershed. Some of my specific concerns about the draft rules are:

There are no proposed limits on how many wells can be drilled and how closely they can be spaced from each other; this means the drillers are in control of how intensely the Watershed is developed, not the DRBC.

Much gas well development will occur without the planning the DRBC requires for more than 5 well pads or companies who have leaseholds of 3200 acres or more. At 10-12 wells per pad, 50 to 60 gas wells can be drilled without any plan oversight and variances, exemptions and limited expansions could make matters worse. Even where natural gas development plans are required, it is not clear how the planning will limit adverse environmental impacts, nor is it clear how cumulative analyses can be made from these plans to avoid large scale degradation.

The DRBC does not restrict the dangerous chemicals that will be used in drilling and hydraulic fracturing. While the DRBC requires operators to disclose what they are using on site and to do some sampling, the proposed rules do not guarantee public disclosure of all of the chemicals they will use, and the proposed rules do not propose to remove all of these chemicals in wastewater treatment. Some carcinogens are not even tested for.

The DRBC proposes to protect flood hazard areas, but the proposed rules allow variances so that only floodways are clearly off limits.

We need more time to participate in the rulemaking process. DRBC needs to extend the public comment period by at least another 120 days and hold hearings in New York City, Philadelphia, and more hearings close to where people live in PA. We care deeply about our future and the health of the Delaware River. Please let us take part in this historic rulemaking that will shape the future of our River and Watershed by expanding the public comment opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this crucial rulemaking. I ask that, after the rulemaking closes, you hold the rules in abeyance until the scientific studies are done so that information can inform regulations that will prevent pollution and avoid degradation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharyn Keiser', written over a horizontal line.

Sharyn Keiser, President  
New Hope Borough Council

Enclosure  
File





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LAURENCE D. KELLER  
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JOHN BURKE  
BOROUGH MANAGER

August 25, 2010

Carol Collier, Executive Director  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
25 State Police Drive  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Ms. Collier:

The Delaware River Basin Commission instituted a partial moratorium on gas well development in May tied to the adoption of natural gas-specific regulations. The Commission also applied to the federal government for \$1m to prepare a cumulative impact analysis to assess potential impacts on water resources in the Delaware River Watershed from natural gas development, the first step in figuring out how to establish rules to prevent pollution and environmental degradation.

New Hope Borough Council urges the Commission delay proposed natural gas regulations until the cumulative impact study is completed using federal funds. Knowledge of the cumulative impacts of natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed is essential in order to understand how this activity should be regulated. Without such a study, there are far too many unknowns that may result in critical gaps in rulemaking. If the Commission develops rules without the benefit of a study, the resulting regulations run the risk of being seriously defective and may endanger the fragile basin ecology.

The federal government is going to provide \$1million to conduct this analysis in response to the Commission's request. The funds should receive final approval in the coming weeks. Common sense dictates that the Commission understand the potential for impacts to the Watershed and the water supply on a cumulative basis, not a piecemeal approach -- through analyzing the aggregate "build out" of natural gas and what that means for the environment. The rules should be developed with a goal of preventing pollution and degradation to the River and its Watershed. How can this be done in an effective and defensible way without a cumulative analysis? Over 15 million people rely on the Delaware River for drinking water.

The Commission must analyze the cumulative impacts of:

the billions of gallons of water that will be consumed - lost forever - through hydraulic fracturing in a world where fresh water is becoming the most valuable and scarce of all resources

the loss of water quality and disruption of flow in the river and its tributaries from

water withdrawals, depleting sensitive headwaters and the life within them and robbing precious high quality flow from downstream waters  
the production of billions of gallons of toxic wastewater without adequate facilities to treat it and the discharge of industrial effluent

the injection of hundreds of chemicals into the ground through drilling and the aggressive processes of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, risking toxic contamination

the transformation of thousands of square miles of high quality watershed to an industrial landscape, producing stormwater runoff and flooding, pollution to groundwater and streams, and loss of habitat and natural values

the multitude of toxic air emissions, impacting regional and community air and water quality

the labyrinth of infrastructure that must accompany the industry—pipelines, compressor stations, processing facilities, wastewater discharge plants, etc.

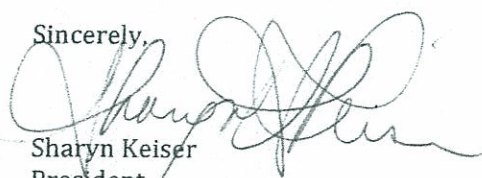
the degradation of Special Protection Waters within the Delaware River Watershed that now support high quality drinking water and diverse ecosystems

the impacts of light, noise, traffic, and community loss of value

This is the moment to address the cumulative impacts in a comprehensive manner. History will remember if the legacy from natural gas development is like that of coal—a shameful history of inadequate regulation that we, as a nation, have been left to clean up at the public's expense.

Thank you, Commissioners, for taking action to complete the cumulative impact study prior to the development of regulations. This will ensure that your actions prevent the pollution and degradation of our prized Delaware River Watershed.

Sincerely,



Sharyn Keiser  
President

New Hope Borough Council

Cc: Congressman Patrick Murphy  
Senator Charles McIlhinney  
Representative Bernie O'Neill  
Commissioner Charles Martin  
Commissioner James Cawley  
Commissioner Diane Marseglia

File