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April 15, 2011

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

Dear Director Collier and Commission Members,

I am writing to comment on the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) Natural Gas Development Regulation on behalf of the residents of the 143rd Legislative District, which is located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Though drilling activity for Marcellus Shale is not occurring in my district, we live downstream of the headwaters of the Delaware River, and are most conscious of the potential impact this drilling can have on the drinking water for millions of people.

The potential degradation of water within the Delaware River and its many tributary streams (some of which are designated EV or HQ status) is undeniably a potential by-product of this activity. I am also concerned over other unintended consequences from Marcellus Shale drilling in this unique watershed. These could include a decline in eco-tourism, a loss of important game and fish habitat, and most important, a decline in the quality of the downstream drinking water supply.

I believe the proposed regulations parallel the charge of protecting our environment given to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and are in keeping with the DRBC's basin plan. This plan is a blueprint for the use, protection, and enhancement of the watershed's water resources through the year 2030. The adoption of this regulation will lead to a more effective mechanism to address other environmental challenges that will accompany this type of development such as forest fragmentation, and erosion and sedimentation overflow into our streams and rivers.

Specifically, I support the provision that would require the submission of a Natural Gas Development Plan (NGDP) which would compel operators to prepare a detailed and forward

looking set of information about the development of all of their lease holdings in the Basin. This will allow for a comprehensive view of water resource protection.

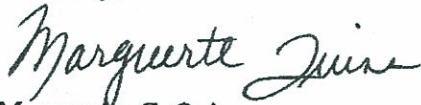
Additionally, I support the elements of the draft regulations that will provide for strict siting and setback requirements on well pad locations and the necessary roads and other accoutrements that accompany the establishment of a natural gas drilling operation. While Pennsylvania's zoning (local land use) regulations are governed by the Municipalities Planning Code, it seems that this law is ambiguous in affording municipal governments clear responsibility to oversee the siting of well pads and access roads, and even if it this was clarified, a myriad of municipal regulations would be confusing to the industry and difficult to enforce.

In addition my comments articulated above, I would recommend the DRBC consider inserting a provision for on the spot enforcement with real time monitoring in the regulation

I believe the draft regulation, if adopted, will provide more stringent environmental safeguards than are currently in place throughout the watershed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marguerite Quinn".

Marguerite C. Quinn
State Representative
143rd Legislative District

CC: Governor Corbett