

Testimony
Delaware River Basin Commission
Natural Gas Development Regulations
Tuesday – February 22, 2011

My name is Edward Coar, I am the Wayne County Director of Planning.

We can all appreciate the need to protect our water resources. This task is addressed from many different positions by many different governmental agencies.

Specifically, the problem I see with the draft regulations is the attempt for the DRBC to extend its regulatory reach to areas that should only be under the jurisdiction of local governments and the Pennsylvania DEP.

Issues such as setbacks, circulation plans, or any other issue specifically not a water quantity issue or a water disposal issue should be left to the states and not regulated by the DRBC.

Every citizen, every local government and every state government should be concerned over the precedent being set here. This can very well be the beginning of the DRBC assuming the role of a super-state that will eventually lead to DRBC's intervention into more land use issues. It is an overreaching attempt to expand its powers that can lead to countless other issues that here to fore have always been local or state responsibilities. It's a duplication of effort which will eventually lead to an erosion of local governance – which should be a concern of everyone, no matter what side of any issue you are on.

For example, the issue of well pad locations not being in forested areas is wrong. This precedent setting provision will eventually allow the DRBC to enter the realm of prohibiting other land uses in forested areas. What will be the next land use that the DRBC will find unfit in forested land, or other land use issue the DRBC would seek to control?

I respectfully ask the DRBC Commissioners to remove all provisions of the draft regulations that do not specifically address water quantity or water disposal issues.