

ROOSEVELT ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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BASIN COMMISSION

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2010-2012 OFFICERS

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February 3, 2011

**Carol R. Collier, Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-00360**

Dear Ms. Collier:

The Roosevelt Island Residents Association, represents the 12,500 residents of Roosevelt Island, a part of Manhattan located in the East River of New York City. We receive our water supply from the Delaware River Basin and are deeply concerned about maintaining the quality of that water and the integrity of our water supply. Last year, we passed a resolution about hydraulic fracturing that we are attaching.


Recently, we have become aware of the DRBC's draft natural gas development regulations and the public hearings that you are holding at this time.

We are requesting two actions on your part:

First, that you make no decisions until after the Environmental Protection Agency completes its study examining the impact of hydraulic fracturing gas drilling on drinking water, the environment and public health. This report is projected to be completed in 2012. We ask that, at that time, you take into consideration the EPA study as well as the New York State high volume hydraulic fracturing environmental impact study.

Second, that you hold at least one public hearing in New York City recognizing that the 8.4 million residents here are major stakeholders in the water supply of the Delaware River Basin.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew M. Katz

President, RIRA

On behalf of the Common Council

cc: Assembly Member Micah Kellner

**Resolution Opposing the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing in the New York City
Watershed and surrounding area**

Whereas, The Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) representing the 12,000 residents of Roosevelt Island is deeply concerned about the potential damage to our drinking water from gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale located below New York City's watershed in upstate New York.

Whereas The Catskills-Delaware watershed lies above the Marcellus Shale geological formation, which is deep within the ground and contains large deposits of natural gas accessible by hydraulic fracturing, a gas drilling process using over 250 chemicals, many of them toxic, including formulas that are proprietary secrets; and

Whereas, The U.S. 2005 Energy Policy Act outrageously exempts gas and oil companies employing hydraulic fracturing from the major U.S. environmental laws that protect the public's health (e.g., the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act); and

Whereas, Hydraulic fracturing presents risks of water contamination during the drilling operations as well as the storage and disposal of millions of gallons of water mixed with chemical additives required for each well that is created, and reportedly has resulted in contaminated water supplies in nine states; and

Whereas, No amount of careful planning and operation can guarantee that there will not be underground migration of the fracturing fluid into underground tributaries and aquifers, including from drilling sites at a distance from the City's water supply; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, we add our name to the Kill the Drill Coalition calling for a ban on gas drilling in the New York City Watershed; and

Be it Further Resolved, RIRA calls upon the Governor, the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the State Legislature to prohibit hydraulic fracturing gas drilling within and without the New York City watershed, including other water resources and lands that may lead to contamination of underground tributaries and aquifers.