

STATEMENT OF MICHELE SIEKERKA, COMMISSION CHAIR (Representing N.J. Gov. Christie)

July 10, 2013

Let me address how the Commission has been moving the natural gas process forward. Since November 2011 DRBC staff and the collective staff of all of the signatory parties have spent thousands of hours:

- 1) reviewing new scientific studies released on the water resource impacts of natural gas drilling;
- 2) benchmarking new regulations, best management practices and performance standards adopted by states, federal agencies and organizations such as the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, a collaborative group that has brought environmental and energy interests together;
- 3) using these models to set a level of minimum standards -- a regulatory floor -- for natural gas development in the Delaware Basin that will protect the shared water resources on which all the basin states depend;
- 4) performing water quality and quantity monitoring to establish baseline conditions prior to the onset of natural gas development in the basin; and
- 5) with the help of a grant from the William Penn Foundation, developing a tool for evaluating the impacts of land-based development on water resources, to facilitate informed planning and assess effects.

I and my colleagues are continuing to confer in good faith and with forward momentum within and outside of our regularly scheduled business meetings to reach consensus on a path forward that provides for the development of a potentially valuable energy source while protecting the vital water resources within the Basin.