

To: Angela Nugent/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/13/2011 12:00 AM
Subject: hydraulic fracturing

Dear Ms. Nugent,

The Delaware River Basin is at a turning point in watershed management with natural gas drillers knocking on our door. It is time to take a stand to fully protect the exceptional water quality, valued natural assets and irreplaceable drinking water supply for 15 million people by preventing pollution and avoiding degradation of the Delaware River and its outstanding Watershed from gas drilling.

Living in the Highlands area of northwest New Jersey and just a few miles from the beautiful wild and scenic Delaware River, I am writing to opposed natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin.

In an effort to protect the drinking supply of thousands of New Jersey the New Jersey State Legislature has designated my area of New Jersey as a protected resource under the Highlands Act. Living in the protection area we are very limited in what can be done to the land (very regulated building, vegetation removal, impervious cover, farming practices, etc.). The lawmakers of New Jersey saw the need to protect the water quality from the effects of overdevelopment, I am sure the EPA can clearly see the need to protect this entire (NY, NJ, PA) area from the devastating effects of hydraulic natural gas drilling. I believe you must think long and hard about the consequences not only now but years into the future.

The damage caused by unregulated industry and poor planning can never be reversed. This knowledge is being ignored by agencies whose only reason for being is to protect the areas they serve. It is amazing how large corporations can still manipulate the system. Knowing what devastation has already plagued areas where this drilling has taken place, I am shocked that it is even being considered in our area. You can write as many rules and regulations as you want, if there is one mistake or insufficient monitoring, the whole area will be laid to waste. To believe this watershed can be protected against this devastation through regulation is pure folly. A complete ban must be implemented.

We must not try to reduce nor mitigate the devastation to the basin through regulation. We must prevent it by not allowing this practice at all. However, if the EPA does not have the strength of will to stand up to the corporate lobbyists and ban the drilling, then the most stringent of regulations must be in place and sufficient funding dedicated to strictly monitor the drilling sites. The process of formulating these regulations should be a long and deliberative process.

Sincerely,
Susan Cullen

Hackettstown, NJ 07840