

Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Delaware River Basin Commission,

You have done a wonderful job in protecting our beautiful Delaware River watershed until now. I want to support you in strengthening and carrying out, firmly and wisely, your mandate to protect clean water for ecosystem health and for all residents, upstream and downstream.

I urge you to immediately notify all operators currently conducting seismic testing and other preparatory steps for the test wells they plan to drill, that they must cease activity and apply for a permit from the DRBC before beginning any construction. The DRBC loophole which allows "exploratory" wells to bring heavy, polluting industry into our watershed is dangerous. We've learned about the dangers of "exploratory" wells from the BP disaster.

I further urge you to deny the Stone Energy water withdrawal permit from the West Branch Lackawaxen River. No permits for any aspect of shale gas drilling should be issued until there is a cumulative environmental impact statement completed for our entire watershed.

Please, although the public comment period for the Stone Energy permits is officially over, consider the fact that downriver communities including Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington, and Trenton never had a chance to attend a hearing near enough to allow meaningful participation.

I respectfully request, and insist, that a hearing on shale gas drilling and its potential impacts on our watershed be held in or near Philadelphia prior to your July 7th meeting.

I firmly believe that, given the devastating pollution incidents, worker deaths, contaminated drinking water, animal deaths, and obviously inadequate regulation in PA so far, we must ban shale gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed.

With your help, we will enjoy and protect the precious, life-filled Upper Delaware River, which helps keep the air and drinking water clean for all of us downriver.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Affiliation _____