

Petition to Ban Drilling in the Delaware River Basin

Deadline: Please return as soon as possible, petitions will be delivered in mid-January.

Commissioners & Steve Tambini, Executive Director

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

Re: Petition to the Delaware River Basin Commission to Prohibit oil and gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin. This urgent request in light of drilling interests suing the DRBC questioning the Commission's right to regulate drilling.

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Tambini,

The undersigned hereby submit this petition requesting that the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) exercise its jurisdiction under the Compact and the current Rules of Practice and Procedure to prohibit all gas and oil drilling (drilling) in any portion of the Delaware River Basin (DRB) because such projects are not compatible with the Basin Compact.

I sign this petition as a Concerned Citizen - I live, work, drink water from, have interests in or visit the DRB

Signature _____ Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

E-mail or phone _____

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COLLECT SIGNATURES AND SEND BACK to DCS IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE
DCS WILL FORWARD to DRBC, and COMMISSIONERS

For over eight years, we have asked how can drilling – with all its known and demonstrable risks to human communities, to flora, fauna, food - and watersheds -- be compatible with the Basin Compact which states, "that pollution by sewage or industrial or other waste originating within a signatory state shall not injuriously affect waters of the basin as contemplated by the comprehensive plan." Drilling and associated activities cannot be made compatible with the DRBC's jurisdiction and mandate: "to control future pollution and abate existing pollution in the waters of the basin." The Compact very clearly specifies that, "The ground waters of the Basin shall not contain substances or properties attributable to the activities of man in concentrations or amounts sufficient to endanger or preclude the water uses to be protected. Within this requirement, the ground waters shall be free from substances or properties in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life, or that produce color, taste, or odor of the waters."

Just as the DRBC's Executive Director's Determination of May 19, 2009 blocked shale wells and the Supplemental Determination extended that block to 'test' wells, because of a "... recognition that as a result of water withdrawals, wastewater disposal and other activities, natural gas extraction projects in shale formations could individually or cumulatively affect the water quality of Special Protection Waters by altering their physical, biological, chemical or hydrological characteristics." And additionally all 'test' wells were also stopped in June, 2010, when the industry withdrew from a DRBC Hearing in the face of extensive expert testimony assembled by DCS and Delaware RiverKeeper that vertical, conventional wells reaching any formation layer also present clear dangers to the DRB.

Conventional, unconventional or fracked gas/oil wells have no place in the Basin. The cumulative impacts of all aspects of drilling, associated activities and wastes cause documented damage locally, regionally and globally. Damage to the DRB could impact the health of at least 15 million people and totally transform and degrade the hydrological qualities of the Basin, destroying the pristine quality of the watershed and resulting in major and permanent damage to all aspects of the Delaware River water resource.

We are determined to prevent that damage, as we believe the DRBC must also be. It is with this regard for the health of the DRB and all its present and future inhabitants that we petition the DRBC to prohibit all gas and oil drilling in all portions of the Delaware River Basin.

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Everyone should sign - family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues - more petitions are available at DAMASCUS CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (DCS) office:845-252-6677 www.DamascusCitizens.org
SEND BACK IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE or to DCS, PO Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443