



IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

NEWS: [The DRBC's recent rule-making resolution DOES NOT commit it to a ban on drilling in the river basin](#)

Although an informal moratorium has been in effect for seven years, the Delaware River Basin Commission has entered the final stage of drafting formal regulations deciding if, where and how there can be drilling in the Delaware River Basin. The DRBC is considering rules containing “prohibitions related to” fracking in the river basin—vaguely saying they may or may not allow drilling. In addition, the resolution implies that storage, treatment, disposal, discharge, or transportation of fracking wastewater and the withdrawal of water from the basin for natural gas development occurring elsewhere could be allowed regardless of drilling prohibitions.

THAT MEANS THE FUTURE OF THE BASIN WILL BE DECIDED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR.

Now more than ever, organizing and action is necessary. Those currently drafting the rules must be certain that these “prohibitions” amount to a total ban. Either way, there will be a comment period following the release of the rules to the public. During that time, professional and scientific feedback must be presented to make our view absolutely clear to the commissioners. We’ve been working for 10 years toward a ban—and will not let up now. We need your help to continue.

To make matters worse, the right of the DRBC to regulate drilling activities one way or another is under threat and must be defended. A lawsuit challenging the DRBC’s right to regulate drilling at all—which if successful would nullify any rules issued by the agency—is under appeal. DCS has filed two friend-of-the-court (amicus) briefs describing the health impacts of fracking. We have been told, off the record, that the briefs deeply impressed the lower court that dismissed the case. We must persevere throughout the appeals process to keep the DRBC's authority intact.

These major legal initiatives must be pursued even as we continue our ongoing efforts in education, advocacy and data collection. Details are listed on the next page, but some highlights are:

- **Our Health and Community Impacts Survey**, which, for the first time, is putting on record with state and federal government agencies the negative impacts of fracking on families and community health. We are finally seeing results in the form of government visits to affected households.
- **Vital input to regulatory processes, like the New York State rule-making process** ensuring that toxic waste from natural gas extraction activities is properly defined and thus subject to regulatory restrictions.
- **And in PA**, we are blocking the use of liquid drilling waste on roads and more!

We are at a critical point in history, and DCS needs you now more than ever. Please reaffirm your investment here; consider this an emergency funding request, so that together, we can permanently preserve this vital and beloved region from the onslaught of fracking.

Sincerely, and the happiest of winter seasons to you and yours from DCS,

B. Arrindell, Director

Please make a contribution today!

USE PayPal /Credit Card via the DONATE BUTTON on
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Or send a check to: DCS • P.O.Box 147• Milanville, PA 18443

WITHOUT YOU, WE CAN'T CONTINUE...

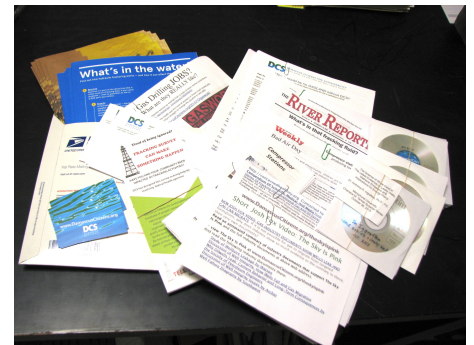
As a supporter of DCS, you are making this important work possible, and you can be comfortable knowing that almost 95% of our funding goes directly to our mission.

Please help us protect the Delaware River Basin. With your help, this is what we are doing:

Legal – Defending the DRBC's right to regulate fracking is a priority. We are committed to ensuring that the upcoming rules include a unilateral ban of fracking in the river valley, and we continue to use legal tools to keep public and environmental health ahead of fossil fuel industry profits. In the past year DCS has made effective comments to NY, PA, FERC and the EPA on fracking issues.

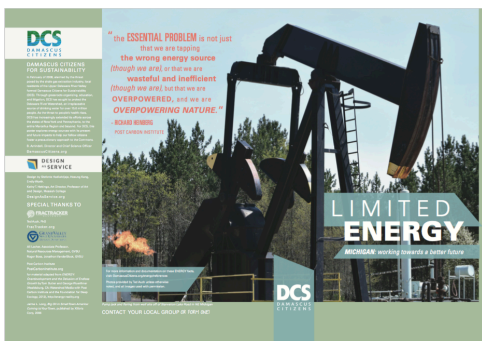
Working to keep frack waste out of NY landfills and off New York roadways - In his meticulous review of the proposed changes to New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations, our environmental attorney discovered that the definitions of NORM (normally occurring radioactive material) and TENORM (the kind resulting from gas drilling) were confused to the point of being almost backwards—meaning radioactive materials produced by gas drilling would NOT be subject to regulation. DCS has submitted comments pointing out this error, which will have an enormous impact on limiting the type of drilling waste that can be allowed in landfills and spread on our roads in New York.

Education Efforts - A great deal of well-spent time goes into community engagement and assistance as we help individuals and small organizations with comments on fracking and fracking infrastructure projects where local voices have a big influence. We continue to explain the science to groups, individuals and the media. We produce and distribute educational material, like our (award winning) posters and issue-specific handouts. The Media continues to contact DCS as subject matter experts. This past year we've contributed to stories in The Philadelphia Inquirer, Pittsburg Post-Gazette, The Wayne Independent, Gothamist, Pike County Courier, NPR Radio and a number of television stations including, WBRE and WNEP. Some of this coverage has been picked up internationally, (Scotland, The UK and Australia) boosting awareness of the dangers of fracking, with Scotland recently banning fracking nationwide.



Health and Community Impacts Survey. This DCS created and facilitated survey is creating the data that connects the drilling processes to impacts on the health of specific people and their communities. We are finally getting results from regulatory agencies visiting affected households!

Our office in Narrowsburg, NY, our website and social media outreach, make all the above possible, while we also foster a greater awareness of what we should be doing: **TRANSITIONING TO A FOSSIL-FUEL-FREE FUTURE**, by **educating about renewable energy**, affordable efficiency, and better ways of energy functioning.



Our new poster entitled, **Limited Energy, Working Toward a Better Future**, makes clear the benefits of renewable energy as compared to fossil fuels. We used Michigan as an example of a state involved in fossil fuel mining that also has a strong interest in efficiency and renewable fuels to show that **the future is renewable energy!**

With more resources we can do more of all the above, including hiring more experts. Testing provides valuable information which is incorporated into persuasive testimony. It's our science-based approach that makes the difference!

Your turn to act.

Please dig deep so that together we can hold the line.

We're determined to keep going. Your generosity continues to make all the work possible.

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit and your contribution is fully tax deductible.

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