

Name: steve hopkins

Title: mr.

Organization: sierra club

County: Westchester

Comment: Dear Sir: As a consumer of water from the Delaware watershed, I am very concerned about the continued purity of that water. To date, there has been no significant degradation of that water. However, with the recent proposals to apply new drilling and extraction procedures to the Marcellus Shale, I am very concerned that the purity of the end product will be substantially affected. Gas extraction is an inherently dirty industrial process, especially considering the chemical makeup of the fracking liquids and the high pressures needed to apply them properly. Any spill of these liquids on the surface, or underground contamination of water eventually flowing to the surface; and hence to the reservoir system would be a disaster of monumental proportions. In view of the fragility of the situation, the only truly safe way to ensure the protection of the watershed is to ban gas production from Marcellus Shale formations in the Delaware watershed which supplies about 70% of the New York City Metropolitan area's drinking water. Further, it is possible that if extensive gas production is started in the watershed, the US Environmental Protection Agency will require the city to build a massive treatment plant to deal with any potential contamination. This would force an unconscionable increase in the water rates for millions of consumers. Please remember that all extractive resource activities come with potentially serious consequences. Please don't take a chance with New York's precious water supply. I urgently urge you to ban all drilling for natural gas in the Delaware watershed!