



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

November 17, 2010

Ms. Carol Collier
Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
Post Office Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: Delaware River Basin Commission's Draft Natural Gas Extraction Regulations

Dear Ms. Collier:

From the beginning of the discussion about drilling in the Marcellus Shale, we have said any decisions must be based on detailed scientific reviews that specifically take into account the unique nature of New York City's unfiltered water supply and that assess any potential harm. The City hired an independent expert to study the issue, and the findings showed that this kind of activity—based on current technology—should not be allowed in our watershed due to potential contamination, heavy industrialization, and the risks posed to our critical water infrastructure.

Based on our study of the issue—which is buttressed by a growing body of evidence from other states suggesting that hydraulic fracturing (“hydrofracking”) can pollute local water sources—we are further convinced that the potential impacts of natural gas drilling on drinking water supplies must be carefully studied before proceeding with regulations that could dictate the extraction of this resource for many years. We strongly recommend that the Commission conduct a study of the potential cumulative impacts of natural gas drilling on water quantity and quality in the Delaware Basin before proceeding any further with the Draft Natural Gas Extraction Regulations.

The stakes are high. The City has invested more than \$1.5 billion in watershed protection programs that have resulted in improved water quality throughout our watershed, as well as to our releases downstream, which benefit all members of the Commission, and the 15 million people who rely on the Delaware River watershed for clean drinking water. The Marcellus Shale is an important domestic source of clean energy, but it must be developed in a way that does not jeopardize critical natural resources like clean drinking water. Because full-scale development of natural gas exploitation in the watershed could degrade water quality, a rush to regulate and drill

risks the long-term viability of one of the most important drinking water sources in the United States. Without the benefit of the critical information that a targeted study would provide, the proposed regulations may be insufficient to protect the vital natural resource that we share.

We look forward to discussing these significant concerns before the Commission makes any final decisions. Please do not hesitate to contact Cas Holloway, New York City's Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, at (718) 595-6565 to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Jack Markell, Governor of Delaware
The Honorable Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey
The Honorable David Paterson, Governor of New York
The Honorable Edward Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania
Brigadier General Peter DeLuca, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division