

**My name is Lee Hartman. I am a resident of Wayne County and serve as the Delaware River Committee Chairman for PA Council of Trout Unlimited.**

**Wayne County is an extraordinary county that is blessed high quality cold-water streams and a historic river that flow through a pristine environment. The county is now targeted by the gas extraction industries to begin drilling the Marcellus Shale. Over ninety percent of the entire watershed in Wayne County is classified as high quality and/or Exceptional Value. Nearly every drop of water that flow in the county reaches the Upper Delaware River, federally designated as a "Wild & Scenic River".**

**The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has the responsibility to regulate, manage and protect the Delaware River and its watershed for the benefit of the public. The entire non-tidal portion of the river, Hancock to Trenton, is designated as "Special Protection Waters". This designation carries with it an Anti-degradation Policy to assure protection of this valuable resource that supplies drinking water to millions of people (including Philadelphia) and recreational opportunities such as fishing and boating in a scenic setting. The DRBC standard limits for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) under the Anti Degradation Policy cannot be met by the gas extraction industries.**

**The DRBC is aware of the importance of protecting the headwater tributaries within the watershed. The West Branch of the Lackawaxen River is a tributary classified as a High Quality cold water wild trout stream that has an average flow of 24 cfs during summer conditions.**

**The request to withdraw water by Stone Energy would remove .7 million gal/day from this tiny tributary. The withdrawal can significant impact on the low volume stream and could impair hydrological functions such as flushing and channel forming flows. Such a withdrawal can also impact important components of life cycles of its fish sufficient to cause death and damage to its eco-system.**

**Deep well drilling is in its infancy in Pennsylvania. The development of the Matouчек Well #1 is the first of the many wells that will be put in place in the Delaware River Watershed during the coming decade. The impact from hydro-fracking potentially thousands of wells in Wayne County could have a devastating effect on the ground water, lakes, streams and river throughout the Delaware Watershed.**

**It is imperative that the permit process recognize the importance of our waterways to safeguard and maintain the biological integrity of our most precious resource....water. Pa Council of Trout Unlimited requests that a moratorium be placed on gas well development until a full scientific review of hydro-fracking is completed to determine the long and short term effects it will have on the Delaware Watershed and its surrounding environment.**

