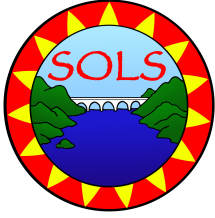


# Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna, Inc.



## *Lower Susquehanna* RIVERKEEPER®

### A Fact Sheet

### The Susquehanna River Basin Commission & Fracking

The Mighty Susquehanna River stretches 400 miles across three states (Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania), provides drinking water to millions of people, and supports many unique natural environments. But in 2011, American Rivers named it the nation's most endangered river because of the risks posed by natural gas development.

That's why a broad network of organizations and citizens across Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania have come together to make sure that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) steps up to protect communities and the environment from the harmful impacts of gas development, which uses a ton of water and creates a lot of pollution. Fortunately, there are ways to do this – and it's important for anyone who cares about water to get involved.

**SRBC is a special federal-interstate agency entrusted with managing a shared, public resource**, the waters of the Susquehanna River Basin. Made up of representatives from governments in three states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agency is required to issue permits for a range of purposes – including drinking water, agriculture, and industries like nuclear and gas development. But it's also charged with conserving water quantity and quality for current and future generations.

**SRBC must stop conducting business as usual by issuing water withdrawal permits in isolation**, without considering the impact of those withdrawals as a whole on water quantity and quality. Even if a single permit seems minor, thousands together can have major effects, especially over time and across the Basin as a whole. A piecemeal approach ignores the connections among different waterways and supports gas development despite damage caused.

**SRBC needs to develop a plan for using and protecting water resources** in shale gas development that is based on long-term planning and scientific study. The Commission will review and amend its Comprehensive Plan for Water Resources of the Basin in 2013. It should focus on the challenges shale gas development poses to water resources quality and quantity, both now and in the future, by conducting a comprehensive study of shale gas development's impact on water resources and water resources management in the Susquehanna.

**The impacts of shale gas development don't stop at state borders** and are beyond the capacity of any one state to handle. With the Susquehanna providing half of the freshwater to the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York's have duties to reduce downstream pollution under the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule. This includes sediment runoff into waterways, one of the most direct and severe impacts of shale gas development.

**The Commission should not authorize any further water withdrawals related to shale gas development until it performs the requisite comprehensive analysis and science justifies – or not – fracking in the Susquehanna.**