

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 100643)

RESOLUTION

Supporting House Bill 2754 calling on a 3 year Moratorium on Marcellus Shale drilling, drilling activities and establishing the Marcellus Shale Study Commission.

WHEREAS, On March 25, 2010, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown introduced and City Council of Philadelphia passed a resolution calling on the Delaware River Basin Commission to halt hydraulic fracturing operations until a full environmental impact assessment has been conducted; and

WHEREAS, On June 17, 2010, Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. introduced and City Council of Philadelphia passed a resolution authorizing hearings on the economic and environmental impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling; and

WHEREAS, On September 21, 2010, State Representative Tony Payton, Jr. introduced House Bill 2754 in the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania known as the Statewide Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Drilling Moratorium; and

WHEREAS, On September 28, 2010, City Council of Philadelphia, Joint Committees on Transportation and Public Utilities & The Environment held hearings concerning a City Council resolution on the economic and environmental impacts Marcellus Shale drilling will have the Philadelphia region; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the City Council hearing there was evidence presented that strongly suggests hydraulic fracturing should be halted until the Federal Environment Protection Agency completes and releases a study on the effects of Marcellus Shale drilling; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2754 will provide for a Statewide Moratorium on natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and establishing the Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission; and

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WHEREAS, The purpose of the Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission shall be to study and analyze the environmental, social and economic impacts of Marcellus well drilling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission will recommend changes to the Commonwealth's statutory and regulatory framework to ensure the protection of the public and the environment as well as successful promotion of the natural gas industry; and

WHEREAS, The Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission shall provide a comprehensive report of the study that will thoroughly investigate the impact of Marcellus Shale well drilling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and make recommendations on improvements to Pennsylvania's law and regulations to ensure the protection of the public and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Philadelphia urges the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives to pass House Bill 2754 calling on a Marcellus Shale drilling moratorium and creation of a Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission; and

WHEREAS, Through implementing the recommendations of the Marcellus Shale Drilling Study Commission the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will ensure the protection of the public and the environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Calls upon on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, House of Representatives to pass House Bill 2754 calling on a 3 year Moratorium on Marcellus Shale drilling, drilling activities and establishing the Marcellus Shale Study Commission.

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RESOLUTION NO. 100643 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the thirtieth of September, 2010.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Jones and Green

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Jones, Green, Goode,
Council President Verna, Councilmembers Greenlee, Sanchez,
Clarke and DiCicco

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Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
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(Resolution No. 100209)

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Delaware River Basin Commission to halt hydraulic fracturing operations until a full environmental impact assessment has been conducted.

WHEREAS, Over fifty percent of the Delaware River Basin, which spans New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, is located in Pennsylvania and its largest tributaries are the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers; and

WHEREAS, Approximately five percent of Americans, or 15 million people, rely on the Delaware River Basin for drinking, agricultural, and industrial use, including 3 million in Pennsylvania, 2 million of which are customers of the Philadelphia Water Department; and

WHEREAS, This natural resource must be protected in order to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing, and economic security of Philadelphia residents today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, In our quest to be energy independent we must also be environmentally sustainable, and currently the total environmental impact on Pennsylvania, both in the short and long term, of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, of the Marcellus Shale in the Delaware River Basin is unknown; and

WHEREAS, It is known that chemicals including diesel fuel, benzene, industrial solvents, and other carcinogens and endocrine disruptors are injected at high pressure into wells in order to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale; and

WHEREAS, Energy companies are currently NOT required by law to report the chemicals they are using, and legislation to end this loophole, the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act, sponsored by the Honorable Senator Casey and endorsed by 14 environmental organizations in Pennsylvania, is currently in committee in the United States Senate; and

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WHEREAS, There have already been cases of private well contamination due to fracking in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Water Department has called for strong regulatory leadership and oversight by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware River Basin Commission to ensure the health and safety of the regions drinking water; and

WHEREAS, The Stone Energy Corporation began operations in a Special Protection Waters site without required application for approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission; and

WHEREAS, At the public hearing held by the Delaware River Basin Commission on February 24, 2010 in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, there was significant public outcry against approving Stone Energy Corporation's retroactive applications for water extraction and natural gas well drilling in a section of the Delaware River Basin classified as Special Protection Waters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we call on the Delaware River Basin Commission to halt Stone Energy Corporation's operations and not approve their applications, or any other applications, until a full environmental impact assessment of fracking in the Delaware River Basin has been conducted to ensure that it will not threaten the safety of Philadelphians, Pennsylvanians, and the 13 million other American citizens who depend on the waters of the Delaware River Basin.

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RESOLUTION NO. 100209 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-fifth of March, 2010.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Reynolds Brown

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Greenlee, DiCicco, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Goode, Rizzo, Sanchez, Miller, O'Neill, Clarke, Blackwell, Tasco, Kelly, Green and Krajewski