

Delaware River Basin Committee  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360  
January 2, 2017

Dear Delaware River Basin Committee:

We are The First Lego League Team 18249, The Puggles (<https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll>) based in Mullica Hill, NJ. We are a team of 10 (ten) girls and boys ranging in age from 9-13. Each year, as part of our regional competition we are presented a "problem to solve." This year we focused on Hydrodynamics and how we can solve a problem with the human water cycle. We decided to look at hydraulic fracking and how it affects that Human Water Cycle.

During our research we learned that the Delaware River Basin Commission has proposed to ban hydraulic fracking within the Delaware River Basin. We appreciate this huge step. We are asking that you take an additional step and ban hydraulic fracking wastewater from being dumped in the Delaware River Basin. We understand that currently there are restrictions and limitations on the dumping of fracking water; however, we request that a permanent ban is put into place.

Our concerns are with the chemicals that present themselves in the wastewater. Studies have shown benzenes, bromides and salts are left even after water has been cleaned. Additional salts dumped in the Delaware River could result in a higher salt content making the water undrinkable for millions of people along the river including Camden and Philadelphia as well as smaller downstream towns. Additionally, the chemicals introduced could not only contaminate the drinking water but also contaminate the fishing areas, bird sanctuaries, migration areas and natural preserves. The Delaware River leads to the Delaware Bay that ends in the Atlantic Ocean further contaminating our natural resources and tourist industries all along the coast. While the effects may not be seen initially, over time making water undrinkable, fish uneatable and natural habitats may die from chemicals and salts introduced into an areas where those elements are not part of the natural ecology.

We are sure that your agency values the importance of protecting our valuable water supply. We understand the importance, as well.

As students in elementary and middle school, we are constantly challenged by our teachers and parents to make a change for the better in our everyday lives. We are asked to conserve paper, conserve water, recycle and protect our environment, just to name a few. We have accepted the challenge and are doing our part and we are respectfully requesting that you do your part and BAN ALL FRACKING WASTE WATER and the use of our water resources for fracking.

Sincerely,

Team Puggles #18249

c/o: Michele Danley FLL Coach 12 Heather Drive Sicklerville, NJ 08081

|                          |                   |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Mamma Galvan</u>      | Arianna Galvan    | <u>Cole Popke</u>        | Cole Dopke        |
| <u>Nickolas Lafferty</u> | Nickolas Lafferty | <u>Jonathan Lafferty</u> | Jonathan Lafferty |
| <u>Madison Ingersoll</u> | Madison Ingersoll | <u>Ivor Mills</u>        | Ivor Mills        |
| <u>Joseph Ingersoll</u>  | Joseph Ingersoll  | <u>Jacob Reid</u>        | Jacob Reid        |
| <u>Nanda Guntupalli</u>  | Nanda Guntupalli  | <u>Ryan Finger</u>       | Ryan Finger       |