

Resolution 5-20-2009

WHEREAS, natural gas production is proposed within the Township of Nockamixon;
and

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Supervisors encourages the natural gas industry to
adopt practices that best protect human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, water is the lifeblood of Nockamixon Township and once contaminated can
be very costly to remediate and can take a very long time; and

WHEREAS, the natural gas production process involves the use of industrial fluids and
chemicals during drilling, hydraulic fracturing, well maintenance, and workover
operations; and

WHEREAS, proposed natural gas wells or future wells in Nockamixon Township may
use hydraulic fracturing in developing these wells; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing of underground geologic formations is often
accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals, including water and
sand, under very high pressure to create fractures in those formations; and

WHEREAS, many of the chemical constituents injected during hydraulic fracturing have
documented adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, use of these hydraulic fracturing mixes exposes adjacent land and surface
waters to the risk of contamination through open pit storage and activities during well
development; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the federal Energy Policy Act and over objections of
health care, scientific, environmental, and conservation communities, regulation of
hydraulic fracturing fluids under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental
protection Agency was exempted, thereby allowing oil and gas companies to use these
substances without federal oversight or standards; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry remains one of the only industries in America that is
allowed to inject such known chemical constituents directly into or adjacent to
underground drinking water supplies without federal oversight; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose
chemical formulas of hydraulic fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly
available for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, many residents in Nockamixon Township rely on groundwater wells for
their water supply; and

WHEREAS, contamination of those wells would present great hardships to residents of the Township and to public health and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, special water resources in the Township of Nockamixon include the Wild and Scenic Delaware River, the Delaware Canal, Lake Nockamixon, and the Exceptional Value _____ and High Quality _____, ... (insert other special value waters), and these waters provide water supply to millions of waters users downstream; and

WHEREAS, these special waters need to be protected from avoidable water quality degradation and would impose significant hardships, public health detriment, and economic harm if degraded; and

WHEREAS, federal oversight of hydraulic fracturing would not be unduly burdensome on industry or the economy; and

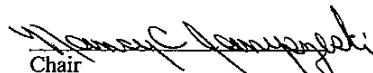
WHEREAS, Nockamixon Township has declared (insert a few words from Comp Plan about protecting water, environment, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of the Township's natural resources involves protection of the Township's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of the Township's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination, rather than cleaning up contamination after the fact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 20th day of May 2009, the Township of Nockamixon supports federal legislation to repeal this exemption, require disclosure of chemical constituents and formulas and ensure this information is reported to relevant public agencies, and thus ensure that basic regulation of the process of hydraulic fracturing under one of our nation's most important environmental and public health laws – the Safe Drinking Water Act – can take place.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this 20th day of May 2009.


Chair

ATTEST:

