Secretary Patrick McDonnell

Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Patrick McDonnell,

The Beaver Run Reservoir in Washington Township, Westmoreland County is operated by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) and serves as a primary drinking water source for over 130,000 people. The mineral rights surrounding and beneath the Reservoir have been leased to CNX Gas Co., and the company has since drilled more than 50 unconventional gas wells near the Reservoir. Many wells have been drilled less than 1000 feet from the shore of the Reservoir.

In January 2019, CNX experienced a catastrophic loss in pressure in their Shaw 1GHSU well and several nearby conventional wells spiked in pressure. To remediate the situation, nine shallow wells were flared, some for more than two weeks, and the Shaw 1GHSU well was “killed” by an outside team.

Since then, the Department of Environmental Protection has been investigating the incident and has already issued a notice of violations. However, previous to this incident, CNX has already had 17 reported violations at their operations near the Reservoir. Through these incidents, CNX has proven that they are not capable of operating in accordance with regulations established by DEP.

By permitting the continued operations of CNX in such close proximity to the Beaver Run Reservoir, DEP is jeopardizing the clean drinking water for thousands of people. We cannot continue waiting for yet another violation by CNX that leads to the contamination of this critical water source for so many Pennsylvanians. I am requesting that the Department utilize their broad authority to protect public health, safety and environment and suspend all permits for CNX’s operations at the Shaw Well Site. I am also calling on the DEP to suspend all other permits granted to CNX Energy nearby the Beaver Run Reservoir and deny the issuance of any future permits near the site.

The DEP should have never permitted shale gas development that puts thousands of peoples’ water at risk. The DEP must take action now to ensure that our rights to clean water are protected.

Sincerely,