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Questions about selling water

TO THE EDITOR |

According to a recent article in *The Leader*, Corning City may sell water to natural gas drilling companies in Pennsylvania. Given the City's fiscal problems, that may seem like a wise decision. But a few questions need to be asked.

Although presently, given all the rain we may have an abundance of water, there have been times of drought, one not too many years ago, during which time cutting back on water consumption was contemplated. There was even concern then that local

golf courses might be using too much water.

We also have to ask about aquifer capacity: Not only how much can be prudently drawn, but how long does it take an aquifer to replenish itself?

Another question is whether the city will sell water mainly from the wells contaminated by volatile organic compounds (which require stripping towers to dissipate) The tremendous amount of water required to drill with hydro-fracturing is astounding. And, of course, if transported by trucks we can expect road destruction and heavy traffic.

Even more troubling is the inadequacy of "treating" or "disposing" of the

waste water (euphemistically called "product water"). Pennsylvania has had its problems with the unintended consequences of drilling so much, so fast, and without adequate safe guards and monitoring. Which makes me question whether by selling our water, we become "enablers" by providing the water that drilling demands.

These are the kind of questions we should ask our city administrators – and which we may ask at the forum on fracking at West High School, Thursday from 7-9 p.m. We need to be informed citizens.

Frank Anastasio

Corning