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**“Toxic Here. Toxic There. Toxic Everywhere.”  
Progress Muscatine Releases Episode Five of *Know Better. Do Better.***

(Muscatine, Iowa) “Toxic Here. Toxic There. Toxic Everywhere.” is episode five of Progress Muscatine’s educational series, *Know Better. Do Better.* This episode examines the fracking ban protecting the water supply of 13 million Americans, and what it means to Muscatine Power and Water, the community-owned utility in Muscatine, Iowa.

Muscatine Power and Water plans to build a new generating unit powered by natural gas, and operational by 2028. In 2024, new U.S. grid capacity powered by natural gas is 4%, a decline from 25% in 2020. One factor impacting the decline is the 2021 ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin, which supplies water to five states, and includes New York City.

On February 25, 2021, the Delaware River Basin Commission banned high-volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the Delaware River Basin. Fracking “adversely impacted surface water and groundwater resources, including sources of drinking water...harmed aquatic life.” The commission studied the impact of fracking on its water resources for over a decade.

The Delaware River Basin Commission was created in 1961 by a federal-state compact, signed into law by the legislature of each basin state. The commission has the authority to manage the water resources of the region and is composed of the governor of each basin state - New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania - and a federal representative, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division, or their alternate.

Jessica Brackett, President of Progress Muscatine said, “The science is clear, fracking harms the water supply. At 4% of new grid capacity, building new natural gas plants nearly stopped this year in the United States. That’s what makes MPW’s plan so disappointing for us, and dangerous for those living at the other end of the pipeline. The good news is that MPW still has time to change course and move forward with better solutions.”

The next two MPW board meetings will be on Tuesday, May 28 and Tuesday, June 25. The June meeting will include two significant votes; one regarding a natural gas powered CHP plant, a strategy in alignment with 4% of all new U.S. grid capacity in 2024; and a steam sales contract with Grain Processing Corporation, the one MPW customer in need of steam from the CHP plant.

In April 2024, the board meeting time changed from 5:30pm to 4:00pm. All meetings are in the MPW auditorium. Public comments are welcome.

*Know Better. Do Better.* is an educational video series prompting viewers to observe a problem or situation, learn something, and visualize a better path forward. Every Tuesday through June, Progress Muscatine will release an episode of the Know Better. Do Better on their website and YouTube channel. Each episode will feature issues in one of three priority areas, LGBTQ+ Equality, Good Governance, and Energy Independence and Transition at Muscatine Power and Water.

Progress Muscatine is a multi-issue 501c3 non-profit organization. The mission of Progress Muscatine is to empower Muscatine County residents to identify problems and work toward sustainable solutions for the common good.

All episodes of *Know Better. Do Better.* can be found at [www.ProgressMuscatine.org](http://www.ProgressMuscatine.org) or on [YouTube](#).

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