

## **WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR LIFE, CLEAN WATER OR FOSSIL FUEL?**

**If you answered "water', please take a little time to safeguard your family's future well-being. We have a chance to protect our water from the dangerous new gas drilling process known as hydrofracking.**

**Washington County will be affected!**

**BUT WE MUST ACT NOW.** Comments on New York's deeply flawed plan to allow fracking are due in early January. Public outcry (and thousands of people at public hearings) is making a difference, so don't despair yet!

**You've probably seen news reports showing residents in fracked communities lighting their tap water on fire.** Methane contaminated their wells after gas companies began "fracking" to exploit "natural" gas trapped in shale a mile or more underground. But this is only the tip of the iceberg.

**Did you know that much of Washington County, NY** (approximately the western half of the county) **lies in the Utica Shale formation, which contains natural gas?** It's even deeper than the Marcellus Shale, which is found in the Southern Tier and Catskills and in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

**If New York approves fracking, the horrors that befell other shale gas areas will come here.**

- **Chemical and even radioactive pollution of our water** (There's radioactivity in these gas deposits).
- **The industrialization of the countryside** (Constant deafening noise and bright lights 24-7, unimaginable numbers of trucks delivering and removing literally millions of gallons of water and fracking wastes, roads everywhere).
- **Air pollution** (Ground-level ozone which forms smog and affects everyone's lungs and crops and trees reaches the same levels in an extremely rural Wyoming County as in Los Angeles, due to fracking).
- **Sick and dying animals and chronically ill people with undiagnosable maladies.**
- Only a small minority actually make money on gas leases while the vast majority of people get stuck with **depressed property values, homes they cannot sell,** and **unlivable and**

[ruined communities.](#)

**New York state is getting ready to make a decision about fracking for this shale gas. Please **SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS NOW** (before **Christmas**).** You will be commenting on the state's Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (GSEIS). It's over 1,000 pages long, so I have attached three files that summarize some of the flaws and omissions in the document, plus various websites if you are so inclined. **You can simply cut and paste the concerns you wish to communicate into the DEC web-based comment form.** *If you need help, please email or call me. (Tracy, 518/692-8242)*

## **MORE BACKGROUND:**

**Last week the EPA announced that it had scientifically linked underground water pollution to fracking for shale gas.** They found at least 10 chemicals used in fracking fluid in 1,000 feet deep monitoring wells in Wyoming. Fracking contaminated residents' home wells so badly that they had to get replacement water.  
<http://www.propublica.org/site/email/feds-link-water-contamination-to-fracking-for-first-time>

**To shake loose this hard-to-extract gas from the shale rock,** drillers inject a million or more gallons of water, laced with numerous chemicals and sand, under extremely high pressure, into each gas well. There are a lot of accidents and unintended consequences with this new process (high volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing), and fracked areas are rapidly becoming sacrifice zones. There's currently a glut of natural gas, prices are down, and the fracked gas is being exported! In addition, all this shale gas would only supply the nation for several short years.

## **WRITE YOUR COMMENTS:**

Here is a smorgasbord of compiled comments from people and organizations who have analyzed the problems with the state's Environmental Impact Statement. **Select a few of the flaws that appall you most.** Where available, please try to use the section number, i.e. 5.18, for each problem you mention in your comment.

(see attached files)

Alternatively, go to <http://www.r-cause.net/sgeis-2011-flaws-and-omissions.html> and scroll down a little less than half way down for a compiled list of 17 categories of flaws and omissions.

<http://tinyurl.com/TCAGasMapSGEIS>

For a magazine article that I wrote about fracking and farmers, go to

<http://chefsformarcellus.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/farmers-fracked.pdf>

For more links, go to the end of this email.

## **SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS:**

- Electronic submission using a web-based comment form [http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.htmlweeblylink\\_new\\_window](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.htmlweeblylink_new_window) available on DEC's website (preferred method); or
- Paper submission mailed or delivered to: Attn: dSGEIS Comments, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-6510. Please include the name, address, and affiliation (if any) of the commenter.

Due to the expected volume, comments that are faxed, telephoned, or emailed to the DEC will not be accepted for the official record. This is to ensure that all comments are captured properly and can be included during the review process.

## **TIPS ON COMMENTS:**

- **Keep it CONCISE! State your concern as a clear statement of fact about a flaw with the document.** Instead of saying "How can the DEC monitor XYZ thoroughly?," say "It is clear due to staffing cuts the DEC cannot monitor XYZ thoroughly."
- **If you reference studies or any other document, include A COPY OF IT with the letter.** THE DEC WON'T LOOK IT UP!!
- **If you reference something in the 2011 SGEIS, be sure to state section number and paragraph.**
- **SEND copies of all comments to**

**the DEC, Department of Health, Gov. Cuomo, and the Attorney General, as well as the media and your legislators:**

**1. Dr. Shah, Commissioner, 518-474-2011**  
**New York State Department of Health**  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,  
Albany, NY 12237  
dohweb@health.state.ny.us  
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/>

**2. Eric Schneiderman 1-800-771-7755**  
**Office of the Attorney General**  
**The Capitol**  
Albany, NY 12224-0341

[http://www.ag.ny.gov/online\\_forms/email\\_ag.jsp](http://www.ag.ny.gov/online_forms/email_ag.jsp)

[http://www.ag.ny.gov/online\\_forms/email\\_ag.jsp#weeblylink\\_new\\_window](http://www.ag.ny.gov/online_forms/email_ag.jsp#weeblylink_new_window)

**3. The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo 518-474-8390**

**Governor of New York State**

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, NY 12224

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

**4. Joe Martens, Commissioner 518-402-8545**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-1010

[dpaeweb@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dpaeweb@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**5. Your state Senator:** Type in your address here

[http://www.nysenate.gov/contact\\_formweeblylink\\_new\\_window](http://www.nysenate.gov/contact_formweeblylink_new_window) where it says "Find my Senator" to locate your state Senator.

**6. Your state Assemblyman:** Type in your address

here [http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?sh=searchweeblylink\\_new\\_window](http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?sh=searchweeblylink_new_window) to locate your State Assembly representative.

**The public comment period for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation draft SGEIS and proposed regulations on fracking ends on Jan 11, 2012.**

**More reasons to submit comments:**

- NYS DEC must legally respond to every substantive comment. The more comments submitted, the more drilling is delayed.
- More delays means more time to build public opposition, expose deficiencies and build political support for a permanent prohibition of fracking.
- Every substantive comment supports future litigation against the SGEIS.

**For information and help with interpreting this DEC's SGEIS document,**

see [www.catskillcitizens.org](http://www.catskillcitizens.org)

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=2011\\_SGEIS\\_Flaws%28NY%2](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=2011_SGEIS_Flaws%28NY%2) <http://sustainableotsego.org>

For independent science, go to

[www.psehealthyenergy.org](http://www.psehealthyenergy.org)

<http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/chemicals.introduction.php> and related links: excellent explanation of why fracking gas harms the health of humans, wildlife, domestic animals and plants.

For investigative journalism, go to

[www.propublica.org](http://www.propublica.org)

Sent by Tracy Frisch, Greenwich Citizens Committee

518/692-8242

*If you don't want to receive emails about fracking or other environmental threats, please let me know. (If you happen to live in Vermont, disregard this notice.)*