

TCCOG Gas Drilling Task Force
Meeting Notes
August 19, 2010

Present: Susan Christopherson, Ned Rightor, Carol Chock, Maria Coles, Ken Zeserson, Jason Leifer, Joe Wilson, Helen Slottje, David Slottje, Robert Oswald, Liz Thomas, Ed Marx, Don Barber, Ric Dietrich, Richard Driscoll, Herb Engman, Sara Hess, Sharon Anderson, Marie McCrae,

Community Impacts from Gas Drilling – Susan Christopherson

Christopherson is an economic geographer at Cornell studying the effects of gas drilling in the Marcellus shale. She spoke to the drilling task force about the scope of her work which focuses on the long-term impacts on communities. The sGEIS was not based on current economic impact studies. Her work intends to model the long term consequences taking into account issues surrounding:

- Long term economic development
- Sustainability
- Employment – is it local, short-term, what type of jobs, what locations are likely to benefit
- Where money brought in from the industry will be spent
- Tax revenue, tax structure and distribution
- Impact on tourism, agriculture
- Economic diversity of the region
- Crime
- Costs to local governments
- Roads
- Quality of life

She will study areas where drilling is already underway and ultimately provide a model and toolbox for local governments to use.

She will *not* address: housing issues, compressors and pipelines, air and noise,

She intends to be finished sometime this fall and will speak at an Albany briefing in November.

Hydrofracturing Ban – Ken Zeserson

Ken is working with an attorney out of Boston on a ban of hydrofracturing. According to some interpretations, towns cannot *regulate* drilling, but may ban it either throughout their lands or within certain land use areas. Undoubtedly, this interpretation would be tested in court. Ken will be looking for municipalities interested in testing this interpretation.

Roads – Don Barber

Don organized a meeting for the roads subcommittee with Lynne Irwin from Cornell Local Roads. Todd Mathes from Whiteman, Osterman, and Hanna Law Firm, and Lori Mithen council from the NY Association of Towns. Danby and Dryden have past laws that will limit road access. While these do not preserve roads from deterioration, they do require the drillers to obtain a permit which will alert the towns to drilling activities before they begin.

Funding of Planner: The new planner will be hired soon.

Next meeting: September 16, 3:00 at the Scott Heyman Conference Room, Old Jail, 125 E. Court St.