

December 2, 2011

The **draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS)** regarding proposed hydraulic-fracturing in the Marcellus Shale in New York State is woefully inadequate in many, many ways including not considering or referencing critical scientific peer-reviewed materials about climate change, methane research, and the scope of water contamination. The dSGEIS also does not address the huge socio-economic impact gas drilling will have on the little communities spread throughout New York State. There are critical land-rights issues that the banking and mortgage industry says will have an adverse effect on homeowners who are interested in refinance or selling property. The cumulative impact of gas drilling will be the industrialization of our landscape and there has been no effort to quantify the adverse impact of drilling.

I am a village trustee in the Village of Freeville, which is within the Town of Dryden. My primary concern, as a trustee, is for the health and safety of the village residents. I cannot guarantee either one given what we do know about the impacts of gas drilling on a community. I can say with certainty that there will be a huge increase in truck traffic down the Main Street of our little village. I can say that our roads will be shaken to bits as will the stone foundations of our houses because of the increased traffic. I can say that the pressures put on little communities is tremendous in terms of housing, and the costs of housing and basics like groceries while the gas boom lasts. Most importantly, I can say that I fear for the little village because of water. We are surrounded by wetlands and ponds and all the village residents draw our water from artisan wells and even the POSSIBILITY of a contamination through a spill or a faulty casing or methane migration would be devastating to the village.

Most important is the fact that if New York State allows high volume fracking, it is essentially taking away Freeville's right to home rule. The majority of the people do not want fracking in our town. They said so in a recent election. They said so by allowing the Town to enact a ban. They are afraid of what might happen and the dSGEIS does nothing to quell those fears.

When people ask why I live in Central New York I tell them it's not for the changeable weather (spring can be six weeks of mud and winter can be hellish), and it's not for the low taxes. I live here because it's beautiful. My sixth great-grandfather came to this county when he received land as payment for his service in the American Revolutionary War. We have lived here ever since. But that doesn't mean my family won't pick up and move should gas drilling be allowed anywhere near our family home. I am also a travel writer and I tell people that I have never once traveled to a place to see industrial activity. Doesn't happen. The Finger Lakes bring in billions of dollars annually in tourism (including the numerous wine trails). Does it make sense to jeopardize this with drilling for natural gas?

I am not convinced that this process is safe and I believe the DEC has not done due diligence in documenting the cumulative impact of high volume hydraulic fracturing.

sincerely,

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