

My name is Ed Nizalowski. I am a retired High School Librarian living in Newark Valley, Tioga County. My profession involves collecting, categorizing and assessing information on most any topic under the sun and doing what I can to assist anyone who walks through the door to make sense of this information. I have read more about hydrofracturing than I ever wanted to and have collected hundreds of newspaper articles, magazine articles, emails and website links about this topic.

I am also a local historian and I would posit that this is one of the most controversial issues in the history of New York State and certainly one of the most controversial for both the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes Region. In terms of environmental issues I can't think of any other that has generated this much discussion and acrimony or whose importance equals that of gas drilling.

In looking at both sides of this issue, I feel that there are numerous reasons to reject the dSGEIS draft as written including lack of treatment for hydrofracturing fluids, lack of protection for drinking water and air quality, lack of assessment on public health and lack of staff to monitor gas drilling activities. I further feel that hydrofracturing should be banned completely for the previous reasons along with a track record by energy companies on the environment that is disturbing, numerous individuals who have already experienced tainted water and severe health problems, a rosy job-creation scenario that is misleading, potential increase in seismic activity and associated impacts on our general welfare that have not been adequately addressed.

In looking at the bigger picture, however, this is one battle in a much larger war. We may want to demonize the energy companies, but every time we look into the mirror we are gazing at their accomplices. The United States has 5% of the world's population and consumes 24% of the world's energy supplies. We throw out 200,000 tons of edible food every day which amount to 30 million tons in a year. By age 75 the average American has generated 52 tons of garbage. We have more shopping malls than high schools. I could give further statistics of this type, but I think you get the picture.

We need to examine and change an economy and a life style that is so heavily dependent on consumption of the earth's finite resources, including fossil fuels. Instead of constantly looking for more of these finite resources, we need to concentrate our efforts both in getting more efficiency in our energy use and to develop those energy resources that are sustainable and renewable.



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