



**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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*Don Barber, Herb Engman, Co-Chairs*

*Richard Driscoll, Vice-Chair*

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\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

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### **Tompkins County Council of Governments Public Hearing December 1 on Proposed DEC Gas Drilling Rules**

The Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) will sponsor a public hearing on Thursday, December 1 to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining and regulations that will govern high-volume hydraulic fracturing.

The hearing will be held from 7-11 p.m. at Ithaca's State Theatre, 107 W. State Street, adjacent to the downtown Ithaca Commons. At the hearing, TCCOG will accept both written and oral testimony and present the comments to the DEC prior to the December 12 comment deadline. The proceedings will be transcribed for submission to the DEC.

TCCOG Co-Chair Don Barber said, "TCCOG's mission for this public hearing is to provide a local venue for citizens to voice their opinions about the Department of Environmental Conservation's 2011 revised Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) as it pertains to high volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in the Marcellus and Utica shales."

According to Martha Robertson, Chair of Tompkins County Legislature and a member of TCCOG, the Council of Governments supports open and transparent government processes and is proud to sponsor this hearing. While the DEC has scheduled public hearings in other parts of the State, there are none within the Finger Lakes Region. To facilitate participation in the comment process, the TCCOG hearing is for citizens within Tompkins County, the Finger Lakes Region and beyond, to make comments on the dSGEIS.

Caroline Town Councilman Dominic Frongillo will moderate the hearing. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to make oral comments must register on a sign-in sheet that will be available at the hearing. Forms will be provided for written comments, but people may come with comments already prepared. This hearing will follow the same format as others held by the DEC, with oral presentations limited to three minutes and speakers presenting in the order registered, as time permits. Those wishing to make comments will be asked to focus their comments specifically on the contents of the draft SGEIS, rather than general statements for or against gas drilling.

The dSGEIS can be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html> and the proposed regulations at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/77353.html>. A paper copy is available for review at the Tompkins County Public Library.

For questions, please contact: Michelle Pottorff, staff for TCCOG, at (607) 274-5434.

*Media contact: TCCOG Co-Chair: Caroline Town Supervisor Don Barber, 607- 539-3395 or 607- 539- 6928*

*NOTE TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES: You may already have received information on this upcoming hearing from one of the volunteer organizers – if so, we regret the duplication and any confusion it might cause.*