

December 5, 2011

Tompkins County Public Hearing December 1/11
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I would like to comment on the lack of consideration the dsGEIS has put into the socioeconomic impacts HVHF on the county and surrounding area. As landowners of 150 acres of farm and woodlot we were targeted for leasing for gas drilling. We declined.

We have a burgeoning organic vegetable farm and an inn, two businesses that are dependent upon the specific environment, both physical and cultural that the finger lakes provide. It is not a luxury to have this environment stay intact, it is a necessity for our economic survival. It is also necessary for others in our industry which as a whole represent a large portion of industry in Tompkins County and surrounding area.

Tompkins county and surrounding areas have developed a sustainable economy, this would be destroyed by the short term gains of a boom and bust gas drilling economy.

We can not survive the environmental degradation caused by diesel fuel fumes, compaction of the soil, traffic, noise and light pollution. Nor can we tolerate the impacts an industrial culture would have on our businesses. We PROMISE customers organic food, and a peaceful place to stay as our business model.

Tompkins county is coming into its own as a world renowned area for tourism and agriculture, both of which would be irreparably damaged if slick water high volume deep shale fracking were allowed to occur.

How is it that Syracuse and NYC are allowed protections for their water and we are not? We are a community of over 130,000, students and residents who need clean drinking water. I do not see provisions to ensure our water is not contaminated by the inevitable accidents that WILL occur as part of any industrial business. Nor do I see adequate provisions for a superfund as this is what we would need were the aquifer to be contaminated.

The distances allowed for pads to be built within wells and watersheds is not sufficient to ensure protection.

- Where is the science for water filtration for waste water?
- We MUST have full disclosure chemicals are in the drill in the water now.
- If 4% of all wells leak, how do we mitigate this?
- We can NOT assume the local municipalities can process it.
- We can NOT assume that our local roads can support the traffic of the huge equipment that is used in gas production.
- We can NOT assume that local communities can afford to maintain the roads.
- We do NOT want the indiscriminate spraying of brine waste on our roads that has unknown and known carcinogens in it. It is a serious health threat to our residents, It is a contaminate to our agricultural lands and water systems.
- The dsGEIS does NOT measure the negative consequences of gas production in our county.
- Nor does it measure or identify the negative longterm effects on the county.

- We do NOT feel that this document represents a majority of the residents and landowners of the county, but represents the interests of gas companies.
- Recent exit polling revealed over 60 % of residents do NOT want Fracking.
- A short trip 100 miles south reveals the heartache towns are experiencing as their towns are "ruined " by traffic, high prices, congested hospitals, schools and prisons. Some were able to benefit monetarily, but many more are not.
- We believe the function of EPA is to represent the interests of the environment and those that inhabit it and are directly impacted , not the few in a corporate economy who live elsewhere.

I close with just a small story.

The Harlem Baptist Choir came to sing at our State Theatre 12/2/11. One woman spoke so eloquently about how beautiful our area is and how thankful she was to be here to enjoy it. This made me realize how important it is that we are responsible stewards of this Finger Lakes region and how intrinsically valuable it is. How does one put a price on that?

I am sure it is possible and this is what the EPA needs to consider.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Thomson