TOMPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your Partner for a Healthy Community

Environmental Health Division
55 Brown Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
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Resolution Regarding the 2011 Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement On Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (Gas Drilling In the Marcellus Shale Formation)

Whereas, the NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation, released a revised draft *Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on the Oil, Gas, and Solution Mining Regulatory Program: Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling and High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing to Develop the Marcellus Shale and Other Low-Permeability Gas Reservoirs*, for public review, **and**

Whereas, a network of compressor stations, pipelines, and other facilities will be needed to support natural gas drilling operations, some of which are regulated by the Public Services Commission (PSC), and which are not addressed in the draft SGEIS, **and**

Whereas, this results in segmentation of the environmental impact assessment and makes it difficult for decision makers and the public to adequately assess the total environmental impacts anticipated from gas drilling activities, **and**

Whereas, actions associated with the development of natural gas reserves from low permeability shale formations in New York State must be properly regulated and managed to protect the health and safety of our residents, **and**

Whereas, current knowledge is not adequate to know if the proposed mitigation measures are sufficient to fully protect human health, **and**

Whereas, further information can only be garnered by establishing cause and effect relationships through studies conducted pre drilling, intra drilling and post drilling which establish a pre drilling baseline of human health and monitor changes in the incidence and prevalence of disease, **and**

Whereas, the post drilling studies would need to be conducted for many decades given the time line of human cancers, neurological conditions, and other disease. **Now therefore be it**

Resolved, on recommendation of the Tompkins County Board of Health, that:

1. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and local health departments should be funded to conduct baseline and ongoing studies to determine the impact of natural gas development on community health and the effects on individual health;

2. In addition to physical maladies (including but not limited to such conditions as endocrine disorders, cancers, respiratory, heart disease) the studies should include measurements related to socioeconomic impacts affecting health (lifestyle and social cohesion, education, crime, sexually transmitted infection, mental health and suicide, and substance abuse);

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3. In order to achieve statistical significance, the NYSDOH should be charged with creating a comprehensive data base of baseline health data which is broken down into regions sufficiently small enough to evaluate the variations inherent in techniques employed at different well pads, and by different drilling companies, and the impacts caused by individual episodes of industrial spills, blow outs and other exposures inherent in the process of hydrofracking, and

4. Such studies should use methods including but not limited to cohort, and single blinded phone interviewing to achieve not only statistical significance, and lack of bias, but cause and effect relationships, and

5. Such studies should be shared with the public in a manner to promote peer review, and

6. The costs of such studies will be derived from monies supplied by the gas industry in such a manner that the studies' scope, methods employed and final results are free of industry influence. And furthermore,

7. A revised SGEIS or separate comprehensive document is needed to address the cumulative environmental and public health impacts from all interconnected gas drilling activities before permits are issued for high volume hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale or other low-permeability formations;

8. NYSDEC should require a water quality monitoring program that is not complaint based, as currently proposed, and instead requires the applicant to submit electronic versions of the analytical results to a repository agency and local health department and requires the applicant to submit a determination to the local health department that evaluates if there have been any significant increases in chemical or physical concentrations;

9. The significant improvements in the 2011 draft SGEISs, including stringent requirements for waste disposal that prohibit discharges to traditional Publicly Owned Treatment Plants (POTWs), prohibiting the use of surface impoundments for storage of flowback water without site specific review, and requiring mandatory disclosure of hydraulic fracture additives, should be included in the final SGEIS and regulations, and

10. A copy of this resolution be entered into the NYSDEC public record for comments on the SGEIS; and

11. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to those parties indicated in Attachment A.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II

This resolution was adopted by the Tompkins County Board of Health at its regular meeting on November 8, 2011.

for Brenda L. Gunnell Crosby
Frank Kruppa
Public Health Director

11/10/11
Date

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(Gas Drilling In the Marcellus Shale Formation), cont'd

Attachment A
Tompkins County Board of Health Gas Drilling Resolution Distribution List

Hard copies to:
Governor Cuomo
NYS Senators Skelos, Brian Kolb, O'Mara, Seward, and Nozzolio
Speaker Silver
Assemblywoman Lifton
Chair of Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation Grisanti
Chair of Senate Committee on Local Governments (via Andrea Stewart-Cousins)
Chair of Senate Committee on Health (via Thomas Duane)
Chair of Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation Sweeney
Chair of Assembly Committee on Health (via Robert Gottfried)
Chair of Assembly Committee on Local Government (via Sam Hoyt)
Chair of Assembly Committee on NYSDEC Oversight (via Adam Bradley)
New York State Association of Counties

Electronic copies to:
New York State Association of State County Health Officials (NYSACHO)
NYS Conference of Environmental Health Directors
Tompkins County Planning
Tompkins County Water Resources Council
Tompkins County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG)
Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District (TCSWCD)
Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC - Bolton Point)
Ithaca Journal
Ithaca Times
Tompkins County Legislature
City of Ithaca Mayor Peterson