

NEWS FROM

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROBERT SWEENEY

Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, Chair

ASSEMBLY MEMBER RICHARD N. GOTTFRIED

Assembly Committee on Health, Chair

ASSEMBLY MEMBER CHARLES LAVINE

Assembly Administrative Regulation Review Commission, Chair

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

**SUSPEND FRACKING COMMENT PERIOD UNTIL THERE IS FULL DISCLOSURE
OF EVALUATION STUDIES AND DATA**

Statement by Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee chair Robert Sweeney,
Health Committee chair Richard N. Gottfried, and
Administrative Regulation Review Commission chair Charles Lavine:

We call on the administration to suspend the public comment period for the proposed regulations on fracking until the state discloses all of its studies and analyses of fracking, as has been demanded under the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), and the health impact review is completed and published.

In addition, the Environmental Conservation and Health Departments have been invited to appear at the Assembly hearing on January 10. We have requested that the departments bring all books, papers, and items including information provided to the consultants, which the agency has in its possession, custody or control concerning the potential health impacts of natural gas drilling, including high volume hydraulic fracturing.

Press reports have disclosed that the state administration produced an evaluation of fracking that claims it would cause no harm to human health. There is evidence that suggests the potential for real danger. The document released to the press does not review what might happen if something goes wrong - which we know has happened in other states. We are concerned that this report reflects the thinking of people who are helping shape the administration's decision on fracking and suggests that conclusions have been made before the research is conducted.

The administration is receiving public comments on its proposed regulations on fracking. The comment period ends on Friday, January 11, 2013. The Department of Health is still reviewing the health impacts of fracking, although the extent of that review is not clear, and the FOIL demands for disclosure of studies and data have not yet been fulfilled.

If the public is to provide meaningful comment on the proposed regulations, the public should be able to see the studies and analysis that were produced at public expense.

We have expressed this call in a letter to Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens and Health Commissioner Nirav Shah. We will press these issues at the public hearing we are holding in Albany on Thursday, January 10.



THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

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January 7, 2013

Joseph Martens, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Nirav Shah, MD, Commissioner
Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Martens and Commissioner Shah:

We call on the administration to suspend the public comment period for the proposed revised regulations of high volume hydraulic fracturing until the state discloses all of its studies and analyses of fracking, as has been demanded under the Freedom of Information Law, and a thorough health impact review is completed and published.

In addition, the departments have been invited to appear at the Assembly hearing on January 10. We request that the departments bring all books, papers, and items including information provided to the consultants, which the agency has in its possession, custody or control concerning the potential health impacts of natural gas drilling, including high volume hydraulic fracturing.

Press reports have disclosed that the state administration produced an evaluation of fracking that claims it would cause no harm to human health. We are concerned that this evaluation reflects the thinking of people who are helping shape the administration's decision on fracking. The evaluation suggests that conclusions have been drawn before research is conducted. There is evidence that suggests there is a potential for real danger. The document released to the press does not review what might happen if something goes wrong – which has been known to happen in other states.

The administration is receiving public comments on its proposed regulations on fracking. The comment period ends on Friday, January 11, 2013. The Department of Health is still reviewing the health impacts of fracking, although the extent of that review is not clear, and the FOIL demands for disclosure of studies and data have not yet been fulfilled.

If the public is to provide meaningful comment on the proposed regulations, the public should be able to see the studies and analysis that were produced at public expense.

Very truly yours



Robert Sweeney



Richard N. Gottfried



Charles Lavine