



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
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Assemblyman 11th District

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Environmental Conservation

COMMITTEES
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June 14, 2011

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On May 26th, the Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, in conjunction with the Assembly Standing Committee on Health, held a hearing to examine the potential health effects of hydraulic fracturing techniques used in natural gas and oil drilling.

At this hearing, compelling testimony was presented highlighting a variety of significant health-related issues associated with hydraulic fracturing including air pollution, statistically significant increases in certain cancer rates in counties with substantial numbers of existing drilling sites, and endocrine disorders.

We have attached copies of the testimony for your review and ask that you direct the Department of Environmental Conservation to include consideration of these items in their response to the comments received on the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSGEIS).

It also became clear at the hearing that the Department of Health needs to have an equal role in the development of the DSGEIS. For example, the DSGEIS should include a health impact assessment study, to be conducted by the Department of Health. There is precedent for such studies in other states, including the study done in Garfield County, Colorado. In addition, the Department of Health should engage in further studies of the chemicals to be used in hydraulic fracturing operations. The amount of information presented in the DSGEIS should be expanded considerably in future versions.

In addition, the scope of the DSGEIS should be expanded to include consideration of the cumulative impacts of drilling operations as well as the potential for increased air pollution. The DSGEIS gave short shrift to air pollution issues and neglected cumulative impacts entirely. Further consideration needs to be given to these issues of statewide significance. For example, potential air pollution threats should be considered in light of the number of counties already designated as EPA non-attainment areas and the threat of an increasing number of counties being added to the list. In addition, these issues have

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become increasingly important as other states have experienced significant decreases in air quality in areas with multiple drilling sites.

We urge you to include these and other considerations in the DSGEIS and not have New Yorkers learn about the risks of hydraulic fracturing after the process has begun and their environment and health have been compromised.



Robert K. Sweeney, Chair
Assembly Committee on
Environmental Conservation



Richard N. Gottfried, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health

RKS/sl
Enclosures