

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

Protect New York's Clean Air & Water We Need a Hydro-Fracking Moratorium

Energy companies are eager to use “hydro-fracking” to recover natural gas deposits contained in New York’s deep shale formations, which include the Marcellus and Utica shale. Hydro-fracking, short for hydraulic fracturing, is a drilling method that poses serious environmental risks. New York’s draft guidelines fail to provide adequate safeguards for New York’s water, land, air and people from the creation of significant toxic, radioactive, and caustic waste by-products. New York State leaders need to enact a moratorium on hydro-fracking to ensure protections for drinking water, public health, and taxpayers.

WHAT IS HIGH VOLUME HYDRO-FRACKING?

To recover natural gas deposits contained in the shale, the industry prefers to use high volume hydraulic fracturing called “hydro-fracking”, which uses millions of gallons of water per well, mixed with a cocktail of chemicals, to fracture the shale and release natural gas deposits.



An example of a multi-well pad site in Pennsylvania

HYDRO-FRACKING CONSEQUENCES

The impacts from hydro-fracking have already adversely impacted communities from Texas to Pennsylvania. Families in Dimock, PA, are living with drinking water contaminated with methane and heavy metals. Drilling companies have been fined for spilled waste that flowed to local streams and rivers, killing aquatic life including thousands of fish. Volumes of toxic, radioactive, and caustic liquid waste by-products pose storage, treatment, and disposal problems. Especially problematic is the lack of federal protection for drinking water, air quality, water treatment infrastructure, and landowner liability.

Chief concerns include human and environmental exposure to:

- Radioactivity released from Radium 226 and Radon, both naturally occur in the Marcellus shale which shields the public from exposure.
- The cocktail of hydro-fracking chemicals injected into the ground are proposed to be stored in open lagoons, transported on public roadways, and treated at unidentified water treatment plants.
- Cumulative air emissions from open hydro-fracking waste lagoons and associated gas drilling operations
- Storing, transporting, treating, and disposing of the significant volumes of radioactive, casuistic, and toxic liquid waste caused by hydro-fracking.

PROTECT NY’S ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND TAXPAYERS:

ENACT A MORATORIUM ON HYDRO-FRACKING

New Yorker’s cannot and must not choose between clean water and energy; we need both. The NYSDEC draft regulations to govern hydro-fracking are gravely deficient and inadequate. Specifically they:

- fail to provide a comprehensive plan for the safe treatment and disposal of polluted/toxic water;
- fail to address the safe disposal of radioactive waste;
- fail to assess the cumulative impacts for New York’s air, water, land, and public health; and
- fail to protect New York taxpayers from paying for increased costs associated with new infrastructure and potential toxic remediation efforts.



WHAT’S THE RUSH?

A hydro-fracking moratorium would provide needed time for regulators and legislators to fully understand and address the deficiencies of the NYSDEC draft regulation to protect New York’s water, air, land, and people. There is a clear need for increased coordination between divisions in the DEC and with other agencies. Due to a laundry list of federal oil and gas industry exemptions, New Yorker’s lack stringent federal environmental protections for water quality. NYS must ensure oil and gas companies pay for needed safety and remediation infrastructure and should **not** expect taxpayers to foot the bill for treating and disposing of toxic waste. Furthermore, Congress recently approved funding for an EPA study on the impacts of hydro-fracking on drinking water supplies and this study should be used to guide regulations to protect our drinking water.

How You Can Help!

Write to Governor Paterson and your state legislators and ask them to:

- ✓ **Enact a moratorium on hydro-fracking in New York State;**
 - ✓ **Ensure cumulative air and water quality impacts are assessed from high volume hydro-fracking operations; and**
 - ✓ **Ensure a clear and enforceable plan to address the safe and proper disposal of radioactive liquid waste.**
 - ✓ **Ensure a safe and accountable disposal plan for wastewater generated from hydro-fracking.**
- Remember to include your name, address, and email address in your letter.*

Please forward any response you receive to CCE’s Syracuse office. It helps us track progress on the issue

Write to:	Hon. Sheldon Silver Speaker NYS Assembly Albany, NY 12248	Hon. Brian Kolb Minority Leader NYS Assembly Albany, NY 12248	Hon. Robert Sweeney Chair Environmental Conservation Committee NYS Assembly Albany, NY 12248	Click here to contact your Assemblymember.
Hon. David A Paterson Governor State Capitol Albany, NY 12224	Hon. John Sampson Majority Conference Leader NYS Senate Albany, NY 12247	Hon. Dean Skelos Minority Leader NYS Senate Albany, NY 12247	Hon. Antoine Thompson Chair Environmental Conservation Committee NYS Senate Albany, NY 12247	Click here to contact your Senator.

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