

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Commissioner Martens  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-0001

August 15, 2011

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Martens,

The 76 organizational signatories to this letter are writing on behalf of our hundreds of thousands of members urging you to hold a public comment period sufficient to allow ample opportunity for New Yorkers to weigh in on the state's revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program ("dSGEIS").

We stand with the New York State Assembly in requesting a 180 day public comment period. The revised dSGEIS is clearly a long and technical document that will require a substantial amount of time to review and analyze. The 60-day period proposed by DEC is wholly inadequate. The agency provided 90 days on the last draft, and this version seems to be even more comprehensive.

The proposals contained in the revised draft SGEIS will likely impact the majority of the land in New York by allowing drilling in the Marcellus and Utica shales and/or through fracking-related trucking and waste disposal proposals. As the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) stated in its June 30, 2011 press release this revised draft will impact nearly 85% of the areas overlying the Marcellus Shale, as well as all of the area overlaying the Utica Shale. These New Yorkers whose daily lives will be impacted by increased industrial activity, increased truck traffic, and spills or accidents need the time to fully understand and weigh in on the state's proposed plan. Additionally, some of our organizations will be consulting with technical experts to develop our own comments. These experts will need sufficient time to analyze and draft reports so that we may furnish DEC with comments that are based on the most well-informed and up-to-date science on which to base any revisions to the next draft.

Public hearings should also be a major component of the public input process for the revised dSGEIS. Public hearings are an essential part of the democratic process in America and providing ample amount of time to testify (6 minutes per individual) while allowing enough total

time to hear from the many citizens who come out to have their voices heard is essential for the public to not only to participate but also have faith that their voices are heard.

During the comment period on the 2009 dSGEIS, DEC held hearings in Binghamton, Sullivan County, New York City, and Delaware County. The DEC should return to these specific locations for hearings on the revised dSGEIS in addition to holding official hearings in as many areas as possible to increase public participation by affected communities. Additional areas should include Western New York, the Hudson Valley and areas where citizens came out to public hearings on the 2009 dSGEIS held by local municipalities.

Finally, our organizations would like to thank DEC for offering easy, electronic means to submit comments on the dSGEIS in the past. We encourage DEC to again host a web form on the Department's website as well as accept comments via email and standard mail on the revised dSGEIS. The web form and email options greatly increased the public's ability to participate in the 2009 public comment process.

Thank you for considering our requests, and we look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Katherine Nadeau of Environmental Advocates of New York at [knadeau@eany.org](mailto:knadeau@eany.org) or 518.227.1432

Sincerely,

Adirondack Mountain Club

Advocates for Cherry Valley, Inc

Advocates for Springfield

Advocates for Morris

Audubon New York

Back To Democracy

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition

Butternut Valley Alliance

Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy

Catskill Mountainkeeper

Chenango Community Action for Renewable Energy

Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Citizens for Clean Water

Coalition to Protect New York

Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes

Common Cause New York

Concerned Citizens of Ulysses

Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc.

Crumhorn Lake Association

Crumhorn Rod and Gun Club

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Dryden Resources Awareness Coalition	Earthcare Committee, Ithaca Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Earthworks Oil & Gas Accountability Project
Earthjustice	
Enfield Neighbors for Safe Air and Water	Environmental Advocates of New York
Environment New York	FLEASED
First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown	Friends of Butternuts
Friends of Sustainable Sydney	Friends of Vestal
Gas Drilling Awareness for Cortland County	Gas Free Seneca
Grassroots Environmental Education	Justice & Peace Ministry, Catholic Charities of Tompkins County
Keep Cochection Green	Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking
League of Women Voters of New York State	Marcellus Accountability Project—Tompkins
Middlefield Neighbors	Milford Doers
Moving In Congregations, Acting in Hope- Cortland	Natural Resources Defense Council
National Wildlife Federation	Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) NYH2O	NOFA-NY NYRAD
Otsego 2000, Inc.	Otsego Neighbors
Partnership for Onondaga Creek	PAUSE, People Advocating the Use of Sustainable Energy
People for a Healthy Environment	Protect Pittsfield
Residents of Crumhorn	Riverkeeper
ROAR Against Fracking (Roseboom Owners Awareness Response)	ROUSE (Residents Opposing Unsafe Shale- Gas Extraction)
Sanford Concerned Citizens (SOACC)	Shaleshock Alliance
Shaleshock CNY	Sharon Springs Against Hydrofracking

Sierra Club—Atlantic Chapter

Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible Energy  
Development

Sustainable Otsego

Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition

United for Action

Upper Unadilla Valley Association

Unadilla Town Community Advocates

Western Broome Environmental Stakeholder  
Coalition

Westchester for Change

Westford Neighbors