

May 28, 2009

Commissioner Alexander Grannis
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-0001

Dear Commissioner Grannis:

I am writing in support of the growing chorus of concerned citizens, including local municipal leaders, to extend the public comment period for review of the draft SGEIS, from the current 30 days, to 90 days. Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Formation may well reach historic levels unseen in this part of the country. The horizontal hydraulic-fracturing drilling technique that will be used presents unique and complex issues, not least of which will be the need for huge volumes of fresh water, one of our area's most precious resources. As the drilling will surely impact our rural communities, it is imperative that we provide as much public input and involvement as possible.

The final SGEIS will provide the framework for issuing permits for hydraulic-fracturing gas drilling. In order to protect our future and the quality of life we enjoy in New York, it's imperative that we get it right and avoid the many mishaps that have occurred in other parts of the country. A couple extra months of review of such a critical document and process as the SGEIS is a small price to pay for that future.

Many thanks, as always, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Lifton
Member of Assembly
125th AD

BSL/lis

Cc: Governor David Paterson
Speaker Sheldon Silver
Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, Chair of Environmental Conservation Committee