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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

AUG 13 2009

Honorable Barbara S. Lifton  
New York State Assembly  
555 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Lifton: *Barbara,*

Thank you for your letter regarding the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) for horizontal well drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing, and specifically your request that the comment period for the dSGEIS be extended from 30 to 90 days.

We are presently on track to release the dSGEIS for public comment in September. While some third-party information has taken a few weeks longer than originally expected, the preparation of the draft document is continuing to move toward completion. Following the release of the draft there will be an opportunity for public comment. As we get closer to releasing the draft document, we will provide information regarding the public comment period.

We appreciate the input of the many stakeholder groups, public officials, industry representatives and others who have participated in this process. I share your interest in assuring that the public be given fair and adequate response time and am committed to that result.

You will recall that we began this process with the publication on October 6, 2008 of a draft scope for the dSGEIS, followed by a series of hearings and a public comment period that lasted until December 15, 2008. During that time we received over 3,000 written comments, each read by DEC staff and considered in the revision of the scope, which was completed in February 2009. We received comments on a broad range of concerns and advice on virtually every aspect of gas production in New York. The public has already had a significant impact on what the dSGEIS will look like and it will be extraordinarily comprehensive as a result. In addressing these concerns in the completed SGEIS, I hope we will quiet the unfounded fears, clarify the differences between our laws and those of states where environmental problems have occurred, and set out the need for appropriate alternative and mitigation measures where significant threats may exist.

Again, I am committed to a fair opportunity for all interested parties to weigh in. Without predetermining the schedule, I believe we will be substantially extending the 30 day minimum set out in our procedures.

Please call me at 402-8540 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Grannis'.

Alexander B. Grannis