

**TESTIMONY OF DANIELE GERARD, PRESIDENT
THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS, 11/30/2011**

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Thank you for this opportunity for Three Parks Independent Democrats to voice our opposition to the dSGEIS and in favor of a statewide ban on fracking. It is our position that by exempting the New York City and Syracuse watersheds, state lands, and other primary aquifers from gas drilling by hydraulic fracturing, the SGEIS admits fracking cannot be done safely **anywhere** in New York. And it's not even much of an exemption; horizontal drills could still reach under watershed lands. With this testimony, we are submitting copies of nearly 2000 letters gathered on Manhattan's Upper West Side calling on the Governor to issue an outright ban on fracking in New York State.

First, whatever the currently perceived economic benefits of fracking, whether to the state or to individual landowners, they will be wiped out by the taxes and fees necessary to fund filtration systems and other safety measures. Second, your agency, charged with oversight and inspections, has had its staff cut drastically. In 2008 you had 19 staff people to police over 13,000 existing conventional gas wells—how could the DEC possibly adequately monitor these and the proposed thousands of fracking wells? Third, the State has no contingency plans and no resources to deal with a worst-case emergency, particularly one that could affect drinking water. Fourth, there is no requirement that drilling companies have the finances (including insurance), equipment or knowledge to deal with an emergency.

Three Parks has specific comments regarding the dSGEIS:

1. **No Way to Dispose of Hazardous Fracking Wastewater**—The SGEIS does not classify fracking wastes as hazardous wastes; they could be sent to treatment plants not equipped to remove toxins. The DEC itself has questioned New York's capacity and ability to treat fracking wastes.
2. **No Public Health Analysis**—Although toxic chemicals used in fracking are carcinogenic, there is no public health impact analysis in the SGEIS. Fracking related air pollution and water contamination have serious effects, especially on the elderly and children.
3. **Positive Economic Impact of Fracking Overstated**—The SGEIS does not include any analysis of jobs lost to agriculture and tourism due to fracking. Industry and researchers consistently overstate the number of jobs for locals created by fracking. NYS gets no direct revenue from fracking. Finally, we already know that property values plummet where fracking takes place.
4. **Proposed Provisions for Disclosing the Contents of Frack Fluid Leave a Loophole Intact**—The SGEIS allows applicants for permits to avoid publicly identifying fracking chemicals under a trade secrets exemption. This will effectively allow the use of undisclosed toxins while wasting hundreds of thousands of gallons of a precious natural resource.

Three Parks urges Governor Cuomo to keep his campaign promise to “not support any drilling that would threaten the State's major sources of drinking water.” That should mean **all** sources of drinking water. It would violate plain common sense for the Governor to approve fracking or for any legislator to vote in favor of it. As the 2000 letters submitted with our testimony show, Governor Cuomo's constituents clearly want him to ban fracking now.