

Resolution: Gas Drilling in New York State

WHEREAS large areas of New York State, including the New York City watershed and western New York, neighboring Pennsylvania and much of the rest of the country are facing potential environmental disaster from the unregulated expansion of a form of natural gas drilling known as hydraulic fracturing, or "hydrofracking,"

WHEREAS hydrofracking is a process in which millions of gallons of water, sand and an unidentified mix of chemicals are pumped into the ground to crack rock and release natural gas; the toxic mix is pumped back up for storage or dumping elsewhere and often pollutes the drill site, the ground water below and any surface water downhill from the site, thereby posing a tremendous threat of contamination to areas that supply the State's water and food,

WHEREAS there have been hundreds of reported spills, fires and contaminated water supplies related to conventional vertical well drilling in New York State and surface contamination related to the retention and disposal of fracturing fluid and wastewater from natural gas operations, while the track record of drilling companies in other states is abysmal,

WHEREAS in the 2005 Energy Bill former Vice President Dick Cheney, acting on behalf of major gas extracting corporation Halliburton, which also developed the process, arranged for hydrofracking to be exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Superfund Law and the Right-to-Know Act, among other regulations,

WHEREAS the environmental, human and animal health damage caused by hydrofracking will also have severe economic consequences for New York State's agriculture, forestry, wineries, real estate, and tourism,

WHEREAS regulations for closed, above ground storage facilities, pre-treatment, or other safety requirements for the fracturing fluid and wastewater generated during hydrofracking have not been adequately written into law,

WHEREAS the infrastructure costs of building and repairing roads, water treatment facilities, and other public services would in many cases exceed any ostensible economic benefits of hydrofracking to local communities,

WHEREAS staff resources of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation are woefully inadequate to manage current drilling activities in New York State and are therefore not sufficient to handle the widespread proliferation of deep-well horizontal, and

WHEREAS natural gas contributes far more to global warming than clean energy sources, such as wind and solar power.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats calls on the Governor and New York State Legislature to enact a ban on hydraulic fracturing; we urge all our federal, state and local elected officials to oppose hydraulic fracturing in New York State and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on our elected officials in the House and Senate immediately to bring hydraulic fracturing under the jurisdiction of all applicable federal laws.

Adopted 12/13/2010