

Below please find my comments on the 2009 Draft NYS Energy Plan (Governor Paterson's Executive Order #25)--

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New York State has some of the cleanest, purest drinking water in the world, a resource that is increasingly becoming rarer on this Earth. Because of this New York City is one of four cities that had received a federal waiver from filtration of its water system. One of the areas of that system, however, the Croton Watershed (East-Of-Hudson), had become threatened from overdevelopment and so in 1997 was part of a Memorandum of Agreement that included the building of a chemical filtration plant in Van Cortlandt Park using outdated DAF technology, the cost of which has ballooned to over \$4 billion.

Now there is a new threat to New York State's water: enhanced technology developed by Halliburton that energy companies are eager to use to access deep deposits of natural gas in the Marcellus shale formations that are found in the central and western parts of New York State. This technology, horizontal hydraulic fracturing, demands millions of gallons of water for each well, together with sand and toxic chemicals that are pumped into the ground, and 40% of this chemically contaminated water remains in the ground, seeping into nearby water bodies, including lakes and rivers, and wells and reservoirs.

Governor Paterson's NYS Draft 2009 Energy Plan applies to all of New York State, which includes besides the Croton Watershed, the Catskill/Delaware watershed (West-Of-Hudson) that together provide drinking water for over 8 million people. About 11% of the Marcellus shale formation is under the watersheds, and once the Catskill/Delaware watershed becomes contaminated another filtration plant would be required, and this time the estimated cost would be over \$10 billion dollars. -- Is the short term gain of a fuel that is considered by many to be interim until others such as wind and solar are more developed, and the extraction of which would cause long-term problems, worth it?

Perhaps to the drillers. In states where extensive horizontal hydraulic fracturing is already being used -- Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania -- there have been numerous instances of pollution of wells and other water bodies, destruction of forest landscape that preserves clean air and controls runoff, and human health problems from the chemicals used. Is it worth it? Only to the drillers. Not to the people directly affected by the negative repercussions.

When the Governor in July 2008 signed a measure in regard to energy production in New York State that included allowing additional gas wells and the use of intensive horizontal drilling, it is only now obvious that it was the first hint

of the Draft NYS Energy Plan that favors the energy companies by easing the permitting process to be implemented by a diminished DEC staff. -- It is not too late to reassess, and we ask the Governor to do so and at least exempt all watersheds from the threats of this gas drilling with the highly enhanced and more destructive technology of horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Thank you for your attention.

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