

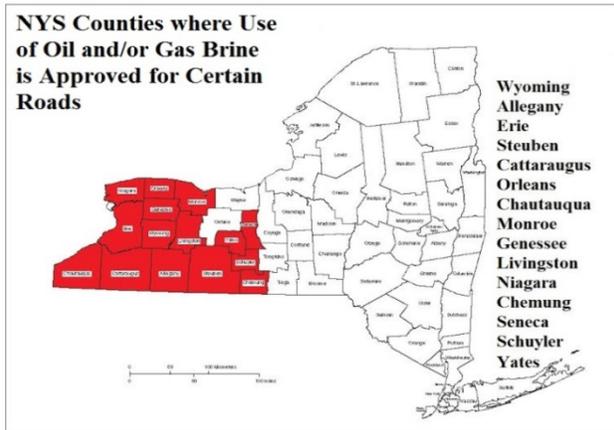
Fracking Waste in NY: Road Spreading

New York allows the use of production brine from conventional, low-volume oil and gas wells and natural gas storage to be used on roads for de-icing, dust control, and road stabilization. Once applied, this waste can run off into adjoining property and ultimately could contaminate rivers, streams, and underground aquifers. Riverkeeper obtained information from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regarding approval of oil and gas brine for road spreading from 2011 to 2014.

Brine Sources

The brine comes from conventional, low-volume oil and gas extraction and natural gas storage operations in New York State. Brine from conventional oil and gas extraction in Pennsylvania has also been sent to New York for use on roads.

NYS Counties where Use of Oil and/or Gas Brine is Approved for Certain Roads



Road Spreading Quick Facts:

- Approved in portions of 41 municipalities in western New York.
- The NYS Department of Transportation also received approval to spread this brine in portions of 10 counties.
- Cumulatively, road-spreading of oil and/or gas brine has been approved in portions of at least 15 New York counties.
- Counties where road spreading has been approved on certain roads can be seen in the map to the left.

Riverkeeper also received associated test results that showed excessive levels of chloride (salts) in brine from both natural gas production and storage facilities. Sample results for brine from natural gas storage facilities revealed the presence of benzene, a carcinogen, and toluene, which has been linked to nervous system, kidney, and liver problems. The results from oil production wells also indicated the presence of benzene and toluene.

Additional Concerns about the Approval Process

- Approvals authorize multiple applications of oil or gas brine per roadway, and do not appear to have an expiration date.
- The specific batch of oil or gas brine used for road spreading does not have to be tested. Rather, applicants need only submit testing results for representative samples, even though the level of contaminants may vary according to the specific well source.
- Testing for naturally-occurring radioactive materials is not required.
- There are no provisions for follow up monitoring or enforcement.
- New York State does not publish numerical testing criteria.

Learn more at www.riverkeeper.org/fracking-waste-in-new-york