

DON'T FRACK WITH NEW YORK'S WATER

Now is the time citizens can make a difference in the debate on fracking by commenting on New York State's draft regulations. These rules will determine where and how companies would drill for natural gas using high volume hydraulic fracturing – "fracking." Riverkeeper and its partners have identified extensive problems with the state's proposed regulations and will file a detailed response designed to protect our water quality and our quality of life for future generations. But Riverkeeper's technical filing alone won't be enough. By doing your part, you and your neighbors can make the difference: **Please comment by Jan 11, 2012.**

What Is Fracking?

Hydraulic fracturing is a technique used to access natural gas locked in rock formations like the Marcellus Shale that underlies much of the New York's Southern Tier and the Catskills, including a major portion of the watershed lands that supply drinking water to New York City and much of the Hudson Valley. Companies inject a mixture of chemicals, water and sand underground to "fracture" shale formations and unlock natural gas that is held there.

Why is Fracking risky?

Both injecting chemicals into the ground, and by releasing contaminants along with natural gas, fracking creates toxic waste that has contaminated drinking water supplies in other states, as Riverkeeper documented in its report *Fractured Communities*. Fracking also disrupts local communities, requiring the use of hundreds of trucks and other heavy equipment incompatible with local roads and landscapes.

What is wrong with New York's proposed regulations?

The Department of Environmental Conservation is tasked with protecting public health and the environment from fracking, but it has published draft regulations and environmental impact studies that are biased in favor of gas drillers. The Delaware River Basin Commission, which also has a role in regulating fracking in New York, has also published flawed regulations. Riverkeeper and its partners have identified 10 major flaws:

1. Failure to analyze fracking's socio-economic costs to government services, school districts, infrastructure, etc.
2. Failure to analyze health impacts ranging from air pollution to potential water contamination.
3. Failure to ban the use of any chemicals used in fracking fluid, which includes known carcinogens.
4. Failure to look at fracking comprehensively, or to coordinate the several agencies with roles in the overseeing of fracking.
5. Failure to undertake a cumulative impact analysis on other industries and interests, such as tourism, high tech and agriculture.
6. Failure to provide long-term protection for drinking water sources.
7. Failure to plan for disposal of hazardous fracking wastes.
8. Failure to adequately protect a buffer around New York City's watershed, or to designate a buffer around Syracuse's.
9. Failure to respect local land use and zoning laws that communities could use to restrict or ban fracking.
10. Failure to heed New Yorkers' concerns about fast-tracking regulations without adequate time for the public to comment.

What can you do to help?

Working together, we can protect our water quality and quality of life for future generations. New York State needs to hear from its citizens. Your comments can make the difference. The best comments will be unique expressions of an individual's concerns that are in line with one or more of the flaws outlined above. Flip this sheet for detailed instructions about commenting. Remember, **the comment period ends Jan. 11** and this is your last and best chance to make a difference on this critical water quality issue.



*A fracking site in West Virginia.
Photo courtesy WVSORO*



*Drinking water of Dimock PA resident.
Photo courtesy Jay Simpson*



TWO WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. Submit comments on New York State's draft fracking proposals:

The Department of Environmental Conservation does not accept comments by phone, fax or email. Mail written comments, with your name and address, to:

Attn: dSGEIS Comments
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-6510.

Or, submit your comments online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.html>.

When you get to the DEC's comment page, you will notice the agency has three proposals open for comment. It's most important to comment on the revised draft environmental impact statement (listed as "2011 rdSGEIS"). If you have time, also comment on the proposed regulations (listed as "Proposed HVHF Regulations").

Submitting your comments to the DEC online is a multi-step process, so please follow the directions to guarantee the DEC registers your comments. We recommend typing your comments ahead of time.

You'll be asked to input your name and other personal information. We recommend that you don't identify yourself as affiliated with Riverkeeper or any other group unless you're a staff member; comments made by affiliates of an organization may be grouped together, rather than counted separately. You'll be asked to select one of 25 categories for your comments. If in doubt, choose "General Comments on the 2011 Revisions." If you have comments that fall into several categories, you can submit them one at a time. For further information or assistance with you can contact the DEC's Bureau of Public Outreach by email at public@gw.dec.state.ny.us or by calling 518-402-8044.

2. Support Riverkeeper

Riverkeeper has been working to protect the Hudson River and the water supply for millions of New Yorkers for more than 45 years. Learn more about our fracking, Indian Point, Hudson River water quality, Brooklyn waterways and other campaigns by visiting riverkeeper.org. To support our efforts, please consider becoming a member. The annual cost is \$40 (\$20 for students or seniors). Member donations help Riverkeeper fulfill its mission as New York's clean water advocate.

*For more information, or to become a member, please contact us at:
Riverkeeper, 20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562, (800) 21-RIVER, (914) 478-4501
info@riverkeeper.org, www.riverkeeper.org*