



## ***Protecting the future of the Catskills***

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition \* Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy \* Catskill Mountainkeeper \* Chenango Delaware Otsego Gas \* Citizens Campaign for the Environment \* Damascus Citizens for Sustainability \* Delaware Riverkeeper Network \* Earthjustice \* Environmental Advocates of New York \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* NYH20 \* New York Public Interest Research Group \* New Yorkers for Sustainable Energy Solutions Statewide \* Otsego County Gas Group \* Otsego County Conservation Association \* Riverkeeper, Inc. \* Shaleshock Citizen's Action Coalition \* Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter \* The League of Women Voters of New York \* Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. \*

May 15, 2009

Governor David A. Paterson  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

As you know, the Department of Environmental Conservation is preparing a Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and other like formations. The Final SGEIS will largely determine the regulatory regime under which permits would be issued for gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

The undersigned organizations representing residents of New York, who stand to be directly affected by gas drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing, are deeply concerned about the public health and natural resource impacts of those processes. The technical and environmental issues associated with this proposed industrial activity are complex and extensive.

Therefore, we request that you direct the DEC to provide a public comment period of no less than sixty days after issuance of the DSGEIS to permit the public adequate time to review and comment on that document. We further request the scheduling of at least seven regional public hearings that are convenient and accessible to interested parties, including at least one hearing in New York City, whose residents' watershed could be directly affected by gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

In light of the scope and intensity of this major proposed industrial activity, citizen and organizational stakeholders must have the ability to voice their comments and concerns publicly and without undue hardship at the last critical step before the environmental review process is concluded.

Cordially yours,

Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition

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Cc:

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