



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE
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February 1, 2010

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol, 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently released its report on the potential impacts of horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale geologic formation, which underlies New York City's drinking water supply watershed. As the report identifies grave concerns about the prospect of drilling in the watershed, we are writing to urge you to consider its findings carefully and to act on its conclusions.

The New York City Council strongly opposes the use of horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing within the City's drinking water supply watershed. We believe that industrial gas drilling, particularly using these unconventional methods proposed in New York State, is completely inconsistent with the commitment to watershed protection that both the City and State have made pursuant to the Filtration Avoidance Determination granted to our water supply by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Our Council's Resolution 1850-A, therefore, calls for a ban on any gas drilling in the watershed. DEP's report provides irrefutable and comprehensive scientific substantiation of this position. We lend our full support to its conclusions and believe that the environmental review of the impacts of natural gas drilling must be revised in light of this report.

DEP's report states that if natural gas exploration proceeds as proposed, the City's drinking water supply will be subject to an alarming number of potential adverse impacts. The watershed will suffer from the effects of industrialization, with vastly increased truck traffic and land use changes contributing to erosion and pollution of our reservoirs. In addition, the water supply would be at high risk of chemical contamination from the drilling process – millions of gallons of water mixed with dangerous chemicals will be injected into unpredictable geologic formations, potentially migrating to reservoirs.

Furthermore, no reliable method of treating the wastewater produced from the drilling process has been identified, and inevitable accidents during drilling, transportation and treatment could lead reservoirs to become contaminated.

Finally, DEP's report calls attention to the risks to our water supply infrastructure, particularly the underground tunnels that could be damaged through drilling accidents or disturbance of the watershed's subsurface geology.

New York City has spent \$1.5 billion since 1997 to protect the quality of our water, and has made extensive rules regarding land use in the watershed to prevent any activities that would endanger our water supply. DEP's report confirms that, should this type of gas drilling proceed, the City's Filtration Avoidance Waiver would be jeopardized, forcing us to spend billions more to build, operate, and maintain a treatment plant with no guarantee that all dangerous chemicals would be removed from the water supply.

We sincerely hope that you will examine DEP's report carefully and, as a result, order a new environmental review with particular attention to New York City's irreplaceable drinking water supply watershed.

Sincerely,



Christine C. Quinn
Speaker



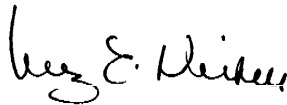
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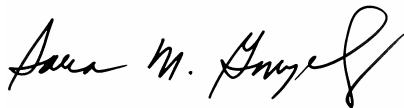
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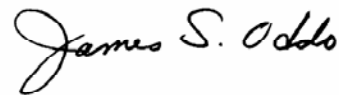
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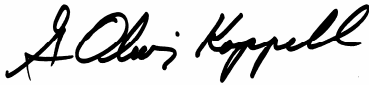
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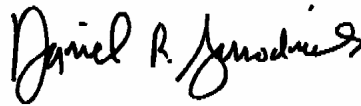
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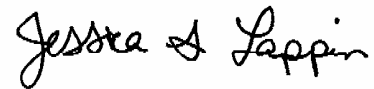
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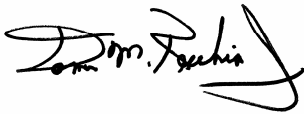
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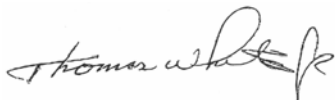
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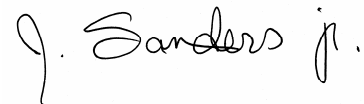
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cc: Peter Iwanowicz, Assistant Secretary for the Environment, NYS
Hon. Caswell F. Holloway, Commissioner, NYC DEP
Steven W. Lawitts, First Deputy Commissioner, NYC DEP
Carter Strickland, Jr., Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, NYC DEP