

# PETITION TO NEW YORK GOVERNOR PATERSON FOR A MORATORIUM ON GAS DRILLING UNTIL AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY IS PERFORMED

As a resident and/or landowner in NY, I petition for the implementation of a moratorium on gas drilling in our state. I request this moratorium so that a comprehensive new Environmental Impact Study can be performed to determine the short and long term impacts of this industry on our health, environment, infrastructure, property values, quality of life and community character, which need to be fully evaluated, adequately planned for, and mitigated via responsible and appropriate ordinances and regulations. Meaningful regulations require elimination of the 2005 Energy Bill exemptions for the gas/oil industry from federal environmental law. New York can legally require all necessary regulations with appropriate enforcement capabilities to effectively replace the exempted federal regulations. Governor Paterson has said that an updated Generic Environmental Impact Study (GEIS - Generic means not site specific.) has to be done before the new drilling law he recently signed is fully implemented. This law is primarily concerned with horizontal gas wells. We insist that a NEW study be done and that vertical AND horizontal gas wells are covered in both the moratorium and the GEIS.

A new GEIS must be performed in order to avoid the kind of environmental damage and pollution that has occurred in so many parts of the U.S. as a result of gas drilling. The GEIS should be as comprehensive and meaningful as possible in order to protect and best manage our natural resources and should include the following:

- Water and air baseline testing surveys must be performed to gauge potential changes in water and air quality, throughout the state where drilling is proposed.
- Proprietary information regarding gas-drilling practices must be disclosed in order for environmental regulations to be implemented. There must be an evaluation of the chemicals, materials, and possible sources of contamination involved in the drilling and hydraulic fracking process, including proposed storage, transport and disposal of industrial wastewater and materials involved in the processes.
- Comprehensive engineering plans of the Marcellus gas fields must be available for public review. Plans must include a description and location of all planned construction of roadways, pipelines, well pads, staging areas, compressor stations, spacing requirements and geographical restraints.
- A full build out model of the project**, incorporating these features should be constructed for the purposes of the study and for public presentation with provision for public input.
- The study must report on projected influence on ground and sub-grade resources such as aquifers, wetlands and critical habitats, the impact of increased water withdrawals, waste water disposal, and the affects of naturally occurring radioactive releases, gas infiltrations, and wastewater, equipment and pipeline emissions.
- The study must report on the projected influence on local and regional infrastructure including roads and increased truck traffic, community infrastructure and emergency resources related to public health and safety, because fires, explosions, and hazardous materials spills have been frequently reported. Lighting, high and low frequency noise, and air emissions pollution problems have been documented to cause serious health affects and even adverse social conditions. Cultural resources within the construction region should be identified and protected.

**These are some but not all of the issues** that must be studied if we are determined to protect our health, our future and the health of the natural environment. One well at a time might seem like a manageable project, but the scale of this project is anticipated to include, for example; as many as 25,000 wells, (a \$100 billion project) in the Upper Delaware Watershed Region alone (even though this area provides drinking water to 17 million people - 5% of the US population); and many 10's of thousands more wells are proposed for other areas of New York State.

**A project of this size with as many potential environmental and public health and safety risks requires nothing less than a new comprehensive Environmental Impact Study.** Our "unalienable Rights, ... among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" (U.S. Declaration of Independence), are not trumped by mineral rights. **I want Life.**

Contrary to what many are saying regarding gas drilling I believe it is not inevitable if our legislators are responsible and do not allow it until a real GEIS is performed, and the results confirm that it can be done safely. It is the least we owe to our community before undertaking such a giant irreversible project.

DAMASCUS CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (DCS) [www.DamascusCitizens.org](http://www.DamascusCitizens.org)

Concerned Citizen,  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Cty \_\_\_\_\_ State&ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail or phone \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Cty \_\_\_\_\_ State&ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail or phone \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Cty \_\_\_\_\_ State&ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail or phone \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE AND SEND to DCS, PO Box 147, Milanville, PA 18443  
 DCS WILL FORWARD to GOVERNOR & ELECTED OFFICIALS by OCTOBER 15, 2008