

Edward C Meier

Dear Commissioners,

As both a New York landowner, a New York fresh water angler and sportsman, as well as a member of a New York landowner group engaged in the hydro-fracking debate I am writing in support of the commission's efforts block hydro-fracking in the Delaware River Basin.

As an owner of properties in Chenango County, New York, several years ago I was presented with the opportunity to join a landowner group forming in Chenango County to participate in leasing land to a worthy energy production firm for the purpose of hydro-fracking in the Chenango County area. As a group we are in favor of safe and responsible development of natural gas reserves through the process of progressive hydro-fracking technology. Through our own professionally written lease we set forth a series of regulations and requirements written into our lease that a development company would need to adhere to before we would enter into contract.

Before entering into any leases the debate moved to Albany and was eventually shelved as lawmakers adopted a set of strict regulations and limited support for fast track development of hydro-fracking that has stalled the initiative indefinitely.

During this time I was able to follow the debate from Trout Unlimited's perspective as a member and active New York angler and sportsman. I obtained an Access Permit to the DEP New York City reservoir lands and expanded my understanding of their concerns and the scope of their interests in the area.

Over time my support for hydro-fracking has waned. As I learned more about the actual process and risks associated with hydro-fracking I have reached the conclusion that the risks to groundwater and surface water resources is simply unacceptable. A fracking related incident in our area, regardless of the cause by either accident, negligence, corruption or terrorism would be potentially catastrophic and irreparable.

New York State DEC, arguably the most successful conservation organization in the United States is neither staffed nor equipped to police an industry as large and powerful as the energy companies that would operate largely unaccountably in hundreds or perhaps thousands of acres of the Delaware River watershed. Even partnering with the DEP would result in a force much too small and ill-equipped to handle the monitoring and regulatory enforcement required to police the activities of hundreds of drilling sites not to mention the hundreds of highway miles used to transport the caustic waste generated from hydro-fracking that must be transported off site and even out of state.

I am not at all confident that the large energy development companies, with the huge profits that are at stake, the limitations of the technology and the massive quantity of resources that the operation requires can guarantee completely safe hydro-fracking in our environmentally sensitive watershed lands. New York rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands are an irreplaceable resource which has been threatened and transformed and preserved over the centuries for both the survival of New York residents as well as prized for the recreational and quality of life needs of New York residents and non-residents alike. The threats to the Delaware River Basin from widespread hydro-fracking is simply unacceptable to this sportsman and resident.

Thank you for your attention to this critical decision.