

Media Release

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Coalition Letter With 21,000 + Signatories Documents Major Shortcomings in DEC's Revised Draft SGEIS Coalition Letter Submitted to DEC Before Public Comment Deadline Letter Requests That Governor Withdraw Factually Incorrect, Inadequate and Incomplete Revised Draft SGEIS

A coalition letter with more than 21,000 signatories was submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by the public comment period deadline for its Marcellus Shale Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (RD SGEIS). The letter documents a total of 17 major shortcomings in the RD SGEIS and requests that Governor Cuomo withdraw the proposal because it fails to fulfill the requirements of Executive Order No. 41 and cannot assure that horizontal hydrofracturing will be done safely in New York.

"An unprecedented coalition of more than 21,000 elected officials, environmental and civic groups, scientists, physicians, farmers, tourism businesses, religious organizations and citizens is sending a loud and clear message to Governor Cuomo that DEC's Marcellus Shale Revised Draft SGEIS is fatally flawed and totally unacceptable," said Walter Hang, President of Toxics Targeting. "Until there is a consensus among local, state and federal government officials as well as all potentially impacted parties that the 17 critical issues identified in the coalition letter have been fully resolved, New York's *de facto* moratorium on shale gas hydrofracturing must remain in effect," he added.

See the coalition letter at: http://www.toxicstargeting.com/MarcellusShale/cuomo/coalition_letter/2011. Noteworthy signatories include: Ralph Nader, Pete Seeger, Assembly Representative Barbara Lifton, Binghamton Mayor Matthew Ryan, noted environmental author Robert H. Boyle and more than 200 official endorsers.

There is a *de facto* moratorium on horizontal hydrofracturing in New York's Marcellus Shale pending adoption of a Final SGEIS. DEC's 2009 draft SGEIS received such withering criticism that it was required to be fundamentally revised according to Executive Order No. 41. As one of this first official acts, Governor Cuomo signed a "continuation" of that order. It requires DEC to: "*make such revisions to the Draft SGEIS that are necessary to analyze comprehensively the environmental impacts associated with high-volume hydraulic fracturing combined with horizontal drilling, ensure that such impacts are appropriately avoided or mitigated ...*"

Coalition letter signatories undertook a wide range of activities to request that Governor Cuomo withdraw the Revised Draft SGEIS, including testifying at DEC hearings, rallying at his State-of-the-State address and submitting thousands of personal appeals via phone calls and emails. See: <http://www.toxicstargeting.com/MarcellusShale>