

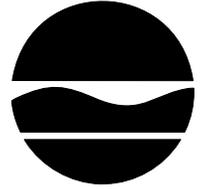
# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Division of Mineral Resources, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-6500

Phone: (518) 402-8076 • FAX: (518) 402-8060

Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

February 6, 2008

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Department's effort to prepare the Final Scope for the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (SGEIS). The Final Scope is now posted on the Department's website, at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/45912.html>.

The purpose of the Final Scope is to outline the topics that will be reviewed in the SGEIS. It reflects Department staff's review of all written comments received since October 6, 2008, when the draft scope was released, as well as the transcripts of six public scoping meetings held in the Southern Tier and Catskills between November 6 and December 4, 2008. A total of 188 verbal statements were received at the scoping meetings, and over 3,770 written statements were received via mail, email, or comment cards submitted at the meetings. Of the written statements, approximately 3,080 were form letters of various types. Commentators included elected officials, various federal, state and local government agencies, environmental groups, industry, other organizations and individuals.

The SGEIS will analyze the potential impacts of shale gas development using horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing, with particular attention to issues associated with multi-well drilling sites. Heightened attention to the latter topic is a direct result of the scoping process, which also resulted in the following significant additions to the scope:

- Effectiveness of regulations in other oil and gas producing states where high-volume hydraulic fracturing of shale and other low-permeability reservoirs is used.
- Setbacks for multi-well sites and high volume hydraulic fracturing operations from private dwellings or buildings, surface waterbodies, private water wells and springs used for domestic water supply.
- Potential requirements for private water well sampling, testing and monitoring by gas well operators.
- Feasibility analysis of requiring use of green or non-chemical fracturing technology.
- Mechanisms to require notification, review and Department approval of re-fracturing operations.
- Specific air quality topics.
- Evaluation of a phased permitting alternative to the proposed action.

Additional background information was also added to the scope regarding topics which do not require analysis in the SGEIS because the Department already has programs in place to address them.

Lastly, the Final Scope also identifies “prominent issues that were raised during scoping and determined to be not relevant or not environmentally significant or that have been adequately addressed in a prior environmental review.” [6 NYCRR 617.8(f)(7)]

The volume and breadth of the comments received and their careful consideration allows the Department to issue this Final Scope with confidence that the SGEIS will address all relevant potentially significant adverse impacts. The Final Scope will be followed in the Spring of 2009 with a draft SGEIS, and you will have an opportunity to provide comments on that document as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Field", written in a cursive style.

Bradley J. Field, Director  
Division of Mineral Resources