

Why Does Bradley J. Field Still Have a Job?

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Ever since the oil and gas industry targeted New York State for high-volume fracking, the DEC's Division of Mineral Resources, which is responsible for oil and gas extraction, has been headed by the same individual, Bradley J. Field. For concerned New Yorkers, Mr. Field's tenure as director of the DMR has been an unmitigated disaster. Time and again he has favored the oil and gas industry over the legitimate concerns of the public.

- In 2008, Field's Division of Mineral Resources (DMR) greased the skids for high-volume fracking by pushing a well-spacing bill through the legislature while falsely claiming it was only a "technical" bill, and that the type of fracking that would be used in the Marcellus had been ongoing in New York State for decades. In fact, "high-volume slickwater fracturing," the technology that would be used in the Marcellus, was new and had never been approved for use in the state. The DEC-backed bill passed late at night on the last day of the session, but some members of the legislature publicly complained that they weren't given an opportunity to consider its contents or implications before it was brought to a vote.
- While promoting the Marcellus gas "play" Mr. Field concealed the state's long history of drilling accidents by falsely claiming that 75,000 wells had been safely drilled in New York. In truth, the DEC has no records at all for tens of thousands of those wells, and DMR files contained records of [hundreds of environmental accidents](#) that came to light only because persistent citizens ferreted out the information using the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).
- Under Mr. Field's leadership, the DMR [lied to the public](#) about the contents of fracking fluid. At a time when drillers were using [dozens of products](#), containing dozens of highly toxic chemicals, the DMR claimed the process used only "sand, fresh water, nitrogen and a diluted soapy solution."
- Field's DMR also allowed drillers to start using "slickwater" fracking, which utilizes huge volumes of fluid and dozens of toxic chemicals, even though the process had never been studied or formally approved for use by the DEC.

- Recently, when confronted with evidence that high-volume fracking has already gone on in New York State, [Mr. Field baldly stated](#) that it never happened, without bothering to explain how his statements could possibly be squared with [documents](#) obtained from the DMR itself.
- The DEC's own staff has twice made it clear that they are dissatisfied with the work of the DMR under Mr. Field's leadership. In 2009, the union representing two thousand professional, scientific, and technical employees [publicly branded the D-SGEIS "inadequate."](#) And on May 31st the union came out in [support of a moratorium](#) that would prevent the DMR from issuing permits for hydrofracked wells. In other words, the DEC's own employees are calling for a law that will prevent the DMR from conducting business as usual!

If New Yorkers are to have confidence in the DEC's ability to safeguard our health and environment, we must know that the individuals charged with regulating the gas industry can be trusted. Mr. Field cannot be trusted.