

Subj: **Re: Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction Project**
Date: 5/28/2008 2:50:28 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: dmnog@gw.dec.state.ny.us

DEC's Division of Mineral Resources has received numerous calls lately about Marcellus shale activity and based on the number of calls, it appears that many companies are actively seeking to lease land for gas exploration in and Sullivan and Delaware Counties. You can access a great deal of information about the leasing process on our website - please go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/205.html> and click on the landowner links on the lefthand side of the page. Mineral Resources has not received any Marcellus drilling permit applications for Sullivan County.

Oil and gas development has been taking place in our state since the 1800s. Laws and regulations have been in place to regulate the industry so that property and ground water resources are protected. Casing programs are designed to isolate the shallow drinking water zones from the deeper formations that may be fraced. The Marcellus shale is approximately 6,000' deep in Sullivan County, over one mile deeper than drinking water zones. Industry has used horizontal well drilling in New York since the late 1980s. Hydraulic fracturing has been commonly and safely used in New York State for decades. Marcellus shale fracing operations in New York State use fresh water, sand, nitrogen and a diluted soapy solution to fracture the shale. These frac fluids do not contain benzene, toluene or xylene.

Mineral Resources staff perform pre-site, drilling and post-site inspections to make certain that all conditions on a drilling permit are followed. DEC inspectors go to the drill site to verify that all fluids are properly contained. Our staff consists of experienced geologists and petroleum engineers who are very knowledgeable about oil and gas drilling operations. The industry is regulated and the lack of contamination events is evidence that the laws and rules are effectively protecting the environment.

Please write again if you have any questions.
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