

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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RECEIVED/DELAWARE RIVER
BASIN COMMISSION

2011 FEB 16 A 11:06
The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

February 2, 2011

Carol R. Collier, Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Ms. Collier:

It has come to my attention that The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), representing Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, issued draft natural gas development regulations for the Delaware River Watershed on December 9, 2010 prior to NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo – one of the five current DRBC Members – assuming his office on January 1, 2011.


As you know, more than 15 million people in four states plus New York City rely on the water supply of the Delaware River. Yet the DRBC has set only 90 days for public comment and has announced plans to hold just three public hearings, with none in New York City.

The DRBC's decision to proceed without seeking input and feedback here in New York City is surprising in context of the fact that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is studying hydraulic fracturing, the stimulation process that is used to access shale gas. EPA's study is examining the potential impacts on drinking water, public health and the environment and is due to be issued in 2012. Further, New York State is re-examining its high volume hydraulic fracturing environmental study and has a ban in place through July 1, 2011. We are further surprised that NYC has not been included in the public hearings given that our drinking water will be directly affected by any decisions that are made by the DRBC.

Attached are two gas drilling resolutions passed by Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M). I reiterate CB8's position that one or more public meetings in New York City, including in Manhattan CB8, should be convened to discuss environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. It is vital that the DRBC and any other entity that issues draft regulations on gas drilling take appropriate steps to solicit comments from affected stakeholders, and I trust that the DRBC will rectify this situation.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Jacqueline Ludorf, Chair
Manhattan Community Board 8

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, New York State Governor
Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Jonathan Bing, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member

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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

October 21, 2010

Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
The City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg;

At the October 20, 2010 Full Board Meeting of Community Board 8M, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8) convened a public forum on April 28, 2009 where information and views were shared by staff of elected officials, environmental advocacy organizations, industry and the general public which highlighted concerns about drilling in upstate New York for natural gas through a process called "hydraulic fracturing;"

WHEREAS, at the May 20, 2009 Full Board Committee Meeting of CB8, a resolution was adopted (by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions) calling for a moratorium on gas drilling by means of hydraulic fracturing at least within the Catskill/Delaware watershed region, unless and until it may be determined by DEC and other decision makers that hydraulic fracturing is safe to practice within NYS, including posing no threat to NYC's water supply;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now conducting a study on hydraulic fracturing's potential impact on drinking water, human health and the environment;

WHEREAS, a bill was introduced in the NYS legislature sponsored by Assembly Member Engelbright and Senator Addabbo (A. 10490A/ S. 7592A) That would establish a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 120 days after the EPA issues the report (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL);

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Manhattan CB8 supports the intent of NYS legislative proposal A 10490A/ S. 7592A that would establish a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 120 days after the U.S. EPA issues its study on hydraulic fracturing.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

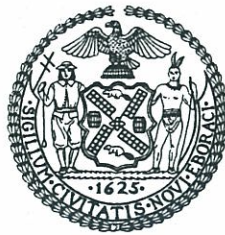
Sincerely,


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair


Dave Kleckner & Debra Teitelbaum
Co-Chairs, Environment and Sanitation Committee

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

May 21, 2009

Pete Grannis, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Steven W. Lawitts, Acting Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

Dear Commissioners Grannis and Lawitts:

At the May 20, 2009 Full Board Committee Meeting of Community Board 8M, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions:

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reports in its NYC 2007 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report that in 2007, 90% of NYC's water came from the Catskill/Delaware System, located in Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster counties, west of the Hudson River;

WHEREAS, in 1997 the City of New York entered into a Watershed Agreement and Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) to reduce the susceptibility of the Cat/Del System to contamination through implementation of an extensive series of programs, and which is maintained under the close scrutiny of both the NY State Dept of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Borough President issued a February 2009 report entitled *UNCALCULATED RISK: How plans to drill for gas in Upstate New York could threaten New York City's water system*;

WHEREAS, the Borough President's report highlights environmental, public health and economic risks of drilling for natural gas through a process called "hydraulic fracturing," which could proceed this year pending the Environmental Impact Statement under development by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC);

WHEREAS, NYC Council Resolution No. 1850 calls upon the NY State Legislature, DEC, and Governor Paterson to prohibit drilling for natural gas within the boundaries of the watershed that supplies New York City's drinking water;

WHEREAS, various environmental advocacy organizations including the NY League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Riverkeeper, and NY-H2O are opposed to hydraulic fracturing gas drilling in New York State;

WHEREAS, DEC has convened public meetings in NYS but not in NYC to discuss environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing;