

Attn: dSGEIS Comments
Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation
NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources
625 Broadway, Third Floor
Albany, NY 12233-6500

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I am an Emeritus researcher of plants and soils at the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University.

I suggest that the most serious shortcomings of this draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on hydrofracturing are:

1. In the draft statement there is no statement as to how the contaminated brine coming out of the well can be cleaned up. Certainly placing the millions of gallons of brine in holding lakes is the worst possible outcome, a community threat to the Finger Lakes Region. It will be a poisonous trap for animals or children or trouble-makers, lasting for at least decades, and perhaps for lifetimes. No means of accomplishing decontamination.
2. The draft presents no adequate process for protecting neighboring wells. A 1000-foot radius of examination of nearby wells is much too small a range, and there is no statement of what can be done to remediate the peoples' wells. Data from New Mexico show us some 700 neighboring wells being contaminated. This is a serious and irrevocable threat to the population. Again, no words of restoration can be seen.
3. There is no plan for cleanup of each site after the wells are exhausted. Who will remove the heavy machinery that is left behind, who will restore the network of roads, who will decontaminate the well sites, and who will restore the agricultural possibilities for the damaged fields? Will decontamination and cleanup even be possible? Of course there is no estimate of the persistent damage.
4. The draft does not even mention that the hydrofractured wells will leave behind a vast layer of poison on the land, and no mention of the corporations having any responsibility for restoring the land, or even a mention that the land will be useless, and the value of the land on the real estate marketplace will be essentially reduced to zero. Who would want to purchase such a devastated, poisonous terrain?

These are some of the most serious damages that I see in the draft statement. There are lots of helpful suggestions for the corporations, but no help for the US citizens that are caught in the trap of spreading poison.

Respectfully,

A. Carl Leopold
W. C. Crocker Distinguished Scientist
Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University