



August 12, 2012

Scott Carlsen, Town of Wawarsing Supervisor
108 Canal St.
PO Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428

Subject: Hydraulic Fracking in the Town

Dear Supervisor Carlsen,

On behalf of the Cragsmoor Association, I would like to express again our support of the recommendation of the Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) of the Town of Wawarsing to ban fracking in the Town of Wawarsing, and to reiterate our commitment to working with the Town Board on strategies to keep this water polluting practice out of our Town.

As you know the DEC has prohibited fracking in the NYC watershed due the potential for water contamination. Since our last correspondence in April there have been several developments and studies that we would like to bring to your attention in the hopes that you will consider again the ECC's recommendation. Here are a few that we feel are significant:

- Commissioner Joe Martens of the NYSDEC stated that if hydrofracking eventually gets the go-ahead in New York, the local bans on the drilling procedure adopted by a growing number of municipalities could be “a basis to deny a permit”. To the best of our knowledge over 100 municipalities in New York State have issued a ban or moratorium on hydrofracking and we are aware of only two lawsuits, both of which were resolved in the favor of the involved Towns. <http://www.cityandstateny.com/local-fracking-bans-denial-permits-decs-martens/>
- A study done by Duke University and California State Polytechnic University at Pomona suggest that drilling waste and chemicals from fracking in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania could migrate into drinking water in ways previously thought to be impossible. <http://www.nationofchange.org/new-study-fluids-marcellus-shale-likely-seeping-pa-drinking-water-1341924839>
- A study by Stonybrook University scientists concluded that there are five ways that fracking can pollute ground water. “Even in a best case scenario, an individual well would potentially release at least 200 m³ of contaminated fluids”. That is equivalent to 52,800 gallons, which would cover one acre of land with 2 inches of fluids. <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120807-study-finds-substantial-water-pollution-risks-from-fracking>

This is a controversial issue for many reasons, and we are eager to engage in a productive way. Given the reports of lawsuits from energy companies, we understand the hesitance of local governments to restrict fracking, but we're concerned that waiting to act until after leases have been signed will put us all at a worse disadvantage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Coplen
President, The Cragsmoor Association, Inc.

Copy: John Gavaris, Town Councilman
 Terry Houck, Town Councilman
 Stephen Bradley, Town Councilman
 Dan Johnson, Town Councilman
 Brian Schug, Planning Board Chairman

