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Comment:

I would like to add to the remarks that I made at the September 10th public hearing at Brooklyn College, about high volume horizontal hydraulic fracture drilling into the Marcellus Shale Formation for natural gas. It's been said that energy independence is a national security issue, and for that reason we must exploit our natural gas resources, no matter where they exist using whatever technology is available. I want to stress that decent drinking water is a national security concern of a higher order. Let me quote here the English proverb that goes, "You never know the worth of water till the well runs dry". I was pleased to note how well the Draft Plan dealt with the subject of environmental justice, recalling the historical record of entities both public and private, in overburdening low-income and minority communities with the negative environmental and physical consequences resulting from the placing of energy-generating facilities in their neighborhoods. I assume that it is the Governor's desire to have the environmental and physical consequences in the form of drinking water contamination and other kinds of environmental degradation resulting from the tapping into unconventional sources of natural gas supply using the process of horizontal hydraulic fracturing, fall equally on all groups of our state's population. The nine million or so people who consume water from the Catskill-Delaware watershed, which overlies the Marcellus, and where the DEC will be granting permits for gas drilling, will all have an equal opportunity to become cancer patients at Sloan-Kettering or ! some other medical facility, where they will be contributing equally to the State's economic activity as they obtain treatment for their cancer or endocrine malfunction disease, resulting from those miniscule contributions of toxic chemicals to their domestic water supplies that would never be removed by any known water treatment process. This would be just one area of the gas extraction industry's production cost externalization.