

Name: Laura Sheinkopf  
Email Address: lsheinkopf@gmail.com  
Title: Co-Founder  
Organization: Safe Water Movement  
County: Kings

Comment: There are some aspects of the State Energy Plan that I would applaud...but I won't waste time with that here. What is absolutely unacceptable to me is that expanded fossil fuel extraction is at the centerpiece of New York State's (drafted) energy future. We are in a climate crisis. Frightening, dangerous things will happen to us, beginning very soon, because our society (most of our world, really) has failed to reduce emissions over the past two decades, even though threats accompanying climate change were well-known. We thought we had time to keep living foolishly, unsustainably, lavishly. But now time is running out and we better get used to the idea of changing our lifestyles, fast and dramatically. Because of our addiction to fossil fuels (coal, oil, and yes, "natural" gas), our coasts will be flooded, cities will heat up unbearably, storms will surge, etc. -- you know the story. So WHY is our government still falling over backwards for fossil fuel extractive industries? WHY is the killer GHG pollutant methane part of our energy 'future'? Have you accounted for the methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) released by venting of gas wells in your calculations of reducing emissions 80% by 2050? How can you reconcile your supposed concern for New York's pristine water supplies with your complicit acceptance of -- rather, active support for -- gas drilling, with its accompanying reckless groundwater contamination? This is not an exaggeration -- while your representatives may say that contamination by gas drilling is unproven or anecdotal, people and animals are getting sick from fracking fluids all across the country. We don't need a state-commissioned study to tell us, for example, that everybody was relatively healthy before the drilling, and then a lot of people became sick just afterward. See your controlled experiment in Pavillion, Wyoming; in Dimock, Pennsylvania; coming soon to New York City, Binghamton, Ithaca, and on and on. I am shouting, if you'll hear me. I am among many who also love their water and love not having to pay a buck a bottle to transnational water privatization corporations in order to drink, cook, and bathe. We hear the warnings from citizens in Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, and elsewhere. We hear their regrets and want to act wisely. We want to restore our water to the commons, where it will be protected by virtue of our shared interest in keeping our water clean, forever. We are strong and we are calling on you to represent us, and not instead bow to industry or to the sleek men and women who promise that "natural" gas is a valuable transitional energy. It is NOT patriotic to poison water supplies. It is NOT secure to poison water supplies. It is NOT forward-thinking to include natural gas exploration in New York State's Energy Plan.