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Re: SEP Comments/NYSERDA Referring to Natural Gas, 3.2.2, pages 50-52:
"The technique used to tap into the Marcellus Shale requires that the gas be produced immediately once the well has been fractured and completed or the well may seal and cease to be productive. The Marcellus Shale formation has a high concentration of clay which makes it susceptible to re-closing if the gas does not flow immediately. As a result, some producers contend that the pipeline must be certified, built, and ready to accept gas before knowing for certain that the well will be a success. The existing process for siting gas pipelines under Article VII of the PSL would likely accomodate this need." It logically follows that the pipelines infrastructure will be planned in conjunction with the permitting of specific gas wells. The Department of Environmental Conservation should be charged with coordinating its permitting process for gas wells with the Public Service Commission, subject to public review. Aspects of pipelines placements such should be considered under the purview of the DEC's Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program. Lisa Wright Ithaca, NY