

THE CASE AGAINST HYDROFRACKING

(For evidence, go to Google and type in the terms listed next to "Evidence" in each section below)

1. The bad effects will be in everyone's backyard.

Very likely that at least SOME of the many, many documented ill effects of water problems, truck traffic, noise, smell, health problems, property values, visual blight, etc., will directly impact everyone in the community.

Evidence: *Schoharie Valley Watch Bassett Healthcare
*Meredith-Coalition
*Bradford County residents see Marcellus Shale development changing their lives
*Natural gas information Bradford County (then click on "Maps" in upper menu and watch "Animated quarterly progression")
*Riverkeeper Fractured Communities

2. Some problems might be lessened by regulations, but some can't be, and staffing and enforcement resources could well be inadequate.

Evidence: *USGS FAQs Can we cause earthquakes
*NYSDEC staff enforcement gas regulation (go to entry #6: "(pdf) NYS conference of environmental health directors")
*Riverkeeper fractured communities
*DEC employees say staffing is inadequate for gas regulation

3. Job Trade-Offs.

Short-term gains in construction/drilling jobs are much smaller than long-term costs to tourism and agriculture jobs, and overall loss due to boom/bust cycle.

Evidence: *NY wine and tourism industry prepares to battle hydrofracking
*Bradford County residents see Marcellus shale development changing their lives
*Economic impact of marcellus gas drilling

*(Also, for the most dramatic evidence, drive through any mining town in Pennsylvania, W. Virginia, Kentucky, Texas, Colorado or Wyoming)

4. High-volume hydrofracking may be Environmentally Dirty, Unnecessary due to a glut of gas already available, and Financially unsustainable.

Evidence: *NY Attorney General seeks financial data from gas companies
*Meredith-Coalition (select Good Times Bad Times from menu, issue # 4, Spring 2011, p. 3)
*theoil drum.com/node/7075
*Cornell Chronicle: Fracking's natural gas may be dirtier than coal

5. Legislation at the Town and County level is legally viable.
A standard talking point by the pro-gas advocates is that NY State law supercedes local law on gas regulation, which means local ("Home Rule") zoning legislation prohibiting heavy industry land use is legally invalid. This point is disputed by many legal scholars, and has not stopped many local communities from passing laws which effectively ban hydrofracking.

Evidence: *A legal plan to control drilling

*Home Rule vs. Marcellus gas

*Helen Slottje "just say no"

*Meredith-Coalition

(select Good Times Bad Times from menu,
issue # 4, Spring 2011, p.2)

*Oneonta gas ban; Cooperstown gas ban; Cherry
Valley gas ban

6. Get Involved.

Some local industry and some large-scale landowners obviously stand to gain substantial financial benefits from fracking, and can be expected to use their connections and influence to fight anti-fracking legislation. Profiting from one's labor and resources is often an admirable and fundamental part of successful economies - but the evidence above demonstrates that hydrofracking is an exception to this rule.

To stop hydrofracking, it is essential that concerned and educated citizens share their knowledge ('spread the word'), and keep up pressure on elected officials by phone calls, e-mail, and most importantly, keeping track of relevant Town and County Board meetings and showing up at them in large numbers. Visit local government websites and read local papers to find out about Meetings.