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Frack, baby, frack!

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In three months, a statewide ban on all natural gas drilling comes to an end.

But will Gov. Cuomo allow developers to begin tapping the rich Marcellus Shale — and thus not only help allay New York's energy woes but also boost the upstate region's ailing economy?

Then-Gov. David Paterson issued the moratorium last December after vetoing a bill that would have extended an existing ban on hydraulic fracturing, aka hydrofracking, in which water and chemicals are injected into rock formations to release natural gas.

Hard-core lefties and environmental groups say the process — which is banned only in New York — contaminates groundwater.

But those claims are refuted by the official state geologist, who calls them "exaggerated" and says he's found no evidence of such contamination in three years of study.

"This could really help us fight climate change," said Dr. Langhorne "Taury" Smith, who works for the State Museum, in an interview with an upstate newspaper. "This is a huge gift, this shale."

On the other hand, the controversy over the shale, he said, has been a gold mine for environmental groups — which have raised funds by alarming folks about the alleged dangers of hydrofracking.

The legislative ban, which was passed after lobbying by the Working Families Party and MoveOn, would've not only prohibited the horizontal drilling method, but also the vertical one, which has been used for decades without opposition.

It also had the strong support of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

No surprise there — as The Post first reported in January, Silver's law firm, Weitz & Luxenberg, holds regular "forums" in gas-drilling states, searching for clients interested in suing natural-gas developers.

During last fall's campaign, Cuomo was noncommittal on whether he'd lift the ban, saying that hydrofracking "could provide a badly needed boost to the economy" — but only if it were proven "environmentally sensitive and safe."

But then he named Joe Martens to head the Department of Environmental Conservation — and Martens, former head of the Open Space Institute, not only opposes hydrofracking but also questions whether DEC has the "capacity to ensure that everything involved in the drilling process goes according to plan."

New York is not so rich in new energy sources that it can afford to let the Marcellus Shale, which stretches across upstate's Southern Tier, remain untapped. And the region can ill afford to bypass any opportunity to add some 5,000 new jobs.

Cuomo should lift the ban — if not now, then certainly when it expires in July.

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