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Martens: SGEIS might be a tad after June

Posted on March 18, 2011 at 2:29 pm by **Jimmy Vielkind, Capitol bureau** in **Department of Environmental Conservation**

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Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens appeared this morning on **The Capitol Pressroom** and said the DEC plans to release its Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale...this summer.

Gov. David Paterson, in one of his last acts in office, declared a moratorium on drilling until June this document — which will measure the cumulative impacts of the process, often called hydrofracking, and suggest mitigation — is finalized. The Environmental Protection Agency is **also studying the issue**; the DEC has not issued any permits for horizontal hydrofracking.

"We don't know how long it's going to take, number one, for EPA to complete its study. I have a lot of confidence that DEC has the resources — not just at DEC, but the state of New York — we're taking advantages of the resources of other states, other state agencies, to look at all of these issues," Martens told Susan Arbetter. "We're going to do a very thorough job...I'm confident we are going to have all the information we need to complete the supplemental generic environmental impact statement."

She asked if the study was still on track for June.

"It's on or about June, is the precise words in the executive order," Martens said. "It will come out when I'm satisfied that it's ready to come out."

"I'm satisfied it's going to come out, but probably more like this summer some time," he said.

Arbetter asked Martens how the document will compare to a **draft document released in September of 2009**. He stressed that there will still be opportunity for public input.

"The document that will come out this summer will be a final draft, so it won't be the end of the line," he said. "We're going to give the public one more chance to look at the document, to look at all of our findings, to look at the document, to look at our responses to the 13,000 questions that we got in the process and then tell us whether they think we got it right."

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Jimmy Vielkind, Capitol bureau

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unclefracker

March 18, 2011, 4:13 PM

Sounds as if Mr. Martens is getting a little shaky. Haven't they been reviewing this thing since 2008? Welcome to NY: The Land of Lost Opportunity.

Adirondack Ed

March 19, 2011, 3:02 PM

Hey, December, next March, maybe even next June. They're all "a tad" after June. The DEC hasn't changed. Their actions are still wrapped up in the politics of any question. They can't make a decision about anything because they're afraid they might hurt someone's feelings. How about Mother Earth's feelings? Environment first, DEC, environment first. It's your job.

Angie Leonie

March 19, 2011, 9:44 PM

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Maybe DEC wants to figure out how to avoid earthquakes. Earlier this month, in Arkansas, two natural gas companies agreed to temporarily suspend use of injection wells (fracking) in central Arkansas where earthquakes keep occurring.

Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy and Clarita Operating of Little Rock told the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission they've stopped operation of the wells near Greenbrier and Guy pending the panel's next regular meeting on March 29.

The commission says there is likely a link between the wells and the earthquakes. There have been more than 800 quakes in the area in the past six months and a magnitude 4.7 quake – the strongest in Arkansas in 35 years occurred recently.

Once the drilling stopped so did the earthquakes.

Momentum

March 20, 2011, 8:04 AM

Earthquakes, oh my.

Sounds like we are moving forward like Nemo. I'm unemployed and heartbroken when a political appointee states that we want the heavily lawyered not for profits to "look at our responses to the 13,000 questions that we got in the process and then tell us whether they think we got it right"

Since when are we not doing our own thinking? "we're taking advantages of the resources of other states, other state agencies, to look at all of these issues" Let's not wait for other states before we figure out how to safely mine our gold. We are in dire straits here Andrew.

New York should be creating a regulation framework that allows us to begin fracking with reasonable sane requirements and leave room to verify and reinforce where necessary. The industry can generate enough revenue for the State to staff up appropriately and not have to wait for other states to look at the issues, they are not accountable to our taxpayers. We tour how we are the leader in states efforts to stop greenhouse gas and to cap and tax. Lets get the industry mobilized, and stop the stalling and waiting. This is akin to what happened with clean Nuclear in this state, the heavily lawyered and fiscally resourced not for profits stall and stop.

Sam

March 20, 2011, 10:47 AM

to Adoirondack Ed.

No the DEC's first job is to manage the treatment of human waste.

Everything else is really second priority

V-man

March 21, 2011, 8:43 AM

Unbelievable that they would allow more public hearings. First off they are the scientist they studied this topic over and over. They spent years on this statement. They need to stop dragging their feet and impliment the regulations. Enough is enough.

I hope in the back of Mr. Cumo's mind he knows this is what is going to make the states budget solvent and in the black for a change.

Frackit

March 21, 2011, 8:46 AM

It's time to get this moving. The enviro-terrorists will try anything to continually delay gas. They didn't prove groundwater contamination so they moved to radioactive waste water and since that doesn't have much chance of becoming the 'game changer' they hoped for now they are attempting to blame earthquakes on drilling. These people are not only ridiculous but I'll bet most are not even NY residents. The truth is the majority of landowners AKA VOTERS here in NY are in favor of safe gas, so get the SGIES out and get the permits moving A S A P !

Growing old

March 22, 2011, 4:21 PM

I agree with the majority, lets get going, if you boil down those 13,000 comments there are probably 10 to 20 actual questions that need addressing repeated time and time again.

barncat

March 23, 2011, 3:26 PM

it's not very reassuring to landowners who support safe drilling to hear that the June 1 deadline will now be allowed to slip even farther into the distance...

Southern Tier mineral rights owners who wish to lease their property, but could not due to state moratoriums, have already collectively lost close to 2 billion dollars in signing bonuses alone over the course of this inexcusable 3 year delay. we didn't get a single dime in compensation, and we will never get that time or money back. thanks NY.

opening up the "final draft" to more public comment will uncover absolutely nothing that has not already been said, then re-said, then argued about some more. what point is there to that other than further dithering delay- delay which remains technically an impermanent "taking" of landowner's rights in the Marcellus, thereby preventing the bringing of the massive class action lawsuit that this inept State SO deserves to be hit with.

Governor Cuomo, you said "NY is open for business". it's time for you to prove it, especially when the state is scrounging for every buck it can come up with. ORDER the DEC to finish its job ON TIME and get this show on the road!

Larry M: If all these millionaires and more can afford courtside seats at Madison Square Garden, the Giants Stadium,....
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