

KLA Awaits Hydrofracking Decision

KLA Newsletter August 2013

The Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee received a response from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) that it would not make any further geographical exemptions of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas (HVHF) until completion of the long-awaited SGEIS. No finite date exists for issuing the final SGEIS. This date could be later in 2013 or in 2014.

The interest of energy companies to HVHF for Natural Gas in the thinner layers of the Marcellus Shale under the Keuka Lake Watershed has diminished in favor of thicker Marcellus Shale layers outside of the Keuka Lake Watershed. However, the diminished interest does not mean that the KLA will not continue its efforts in exempting the Watershed. The H&WD Committee has recently written Governor Cuomo directly to prohibit HVHF in the Keuka Lake Watershed.

The City of Rochester and the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) will begin discussions on collaboration and including Hemlock and Canadice Lakes in the FLRWA.

Meanwhile, the H&WD Committee urges citizens to express their thoughts on HVHF for Natural Gas to their respective Town Boards, Town Planning Boards and Town Zoning Boards of Appeals. The New York Courts have reaffirmed the rights of Towns to prohibit HVHF for Natural Gas.

Meanwhile, we wait.