

## **KLA June Newsletter 2014**

### **Hydrofracking Activity Update**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) confirmed to The KLA Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee (H&WD) that it will consider prohibiting High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) in the Keuka Lake Watershed and a 4000 foot buffer at the time it issues a revised draft of HVHF regulations which will include the NYS Department of Health's concerns with HVHF. Furthermore the NYS-DEC agreed to meet with the KLA at that time.

The KLA H&WD committee believes that the economic benefit for HVHF in the Keuka Lake Watershed is minimal due to the thinness of the Marcellus Shale layer and the nearness to the surface.

Meanwhile the HVHF Committee continues to review and learn from the many reports of HVHF activities in other states which could be applicable to New York State, the Finger Lakes and the Keuka Lake Watershed.

The Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee (H&WD) welcomed the recent statement released by Joe Martens, New York State DEC Commissioner, that any DEC decision on permitting High Volume Horizontal Fracturing for natural gas (HVHF) would not be made until 2015 at the earliest. In addition Martens reported that Governor Cuomo had not provided any funds for staffing the DEC for HVHF in the 2014-2015 NYS Budget.

The continuing reports of HVHF contaminating the water and aquifers near and around some of the HVHF well sites in other states reinforces the KLA concerns of environmental risks to the Keuka Lake Watershed. The Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) supports the KLA position in this regard. The City of Rochester, which uses two of the Finger Lakes (Hemlock and Canadice) for its water supply, has joined the FLRWA as a partner and shares the FLRWA concerns.

Seneca Lakes Pure Water Alliance (SLPWA) has just reached a tentative agreement with the NYS Department of Health (DOH) for the release of the health information in the near future that the DOH has obtained in its quest to

understand the health concerns of HVHF. SLPWA will share this information with the KLA.

The H&WD Committee is hoping to meet with the DEC in the near future and discuss the current KLA concerns and what actions it might expect from the DEC.

The H&WD Committee maintains its position that HVHF be prohibited in the Keuka Lake Watershed and a 4000 foot buffer and will continue to monitor, respond and communicate HVHF activities and decisions as they develop during 2014.