

RESOLUTION NO. 145-11

**URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE THE PROPER  
OVERSIGHT OF HIGH-VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF GAS WELLS  
IN MADISON COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** there has been found to be large deposits of natural gas found in the shale formations that lie beneath the ground in large areas of the Eastern United States from West Virginia to Upstate New York; and

**WHEREAS** natural gas has been found to be a relatively clean method of providing energy for the production of electricity, heating homes, providing fuel for cooking, and may, someday, be utilized for powering automobiles on a large scale; and

**WHEREAS** exploration and drilling for natural gas may provide much needed income for communities and a state that is suffering from a downturn in the economy that may be slow to recover from; and

**WHEREAS** there has been an increase in the leasing of land in many regions of our state, including Central New York, for the purpose of natural gas exploration and extraction. One process that has been utilized to increase the yield of gas wells is known as high-volume hydraulic fracturing, where water is injected into the ground under high pressure after a number of chemicals are mixed with it; and

**WHEREAS** there has been a considerable amount of attention to this process by a number of groups including the NYS DEC and various environmental organizations resulting in high profile studies and reports such as the dGEIS released by the State in 2008. This report is currently being revised and is due to be released shortly; and

**WHEREAS** an executive order was issued by then Governor Patterson, and supported by bills passed by the NYS Legislature, which instituted a moratorium on the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing that is set to expire in July of 2011. This should coincide with the release of the revised dGEIS and should give guidance to regulation of high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State; and

**WHEREAS** high-volume hydraulic fracturing in shale gas formations may have deleterious effects on near-surface aquifers and these effects are poorly documented, thorough testing of private and public water supplies and other surface and ground waters should be undertaken prior to permitting of high-volume hydraulic fracturing and continued assessment of environmental impacts on water should occur after development; and

**WHEREAS** the Public Health Committee of Madison County recognizes that this has the potential to be an issue of great importance with respect to the quality of the drinking water for large numbers of people in our county. Due to the critical importance of aquifers that supply our water, and the fact that once an aquifer is tainted, the probability of it being used again for general consumption if there is an accident could be called into question ; and

**WHEREAS** the issue of high-volume hydraulic fracturing is a complex one that requires careful and meticulous consideration, scientific evidence to develop best practices and policies, vigorous debate, and scrutiny from regulatory agencies that are responsible for protecting public health; and

WHEREAS the industry has the capability of developing technology that may allow for safer extraction of natural gas thus minimizing the probability of any environmental impacts, and that technology should be encouraged and closely monitored by both the industry and government; and

WHEREAS it is incumbent that these technologies and practices are instituted and applied before any potential large scale drilling utilizing this technique is performed in our state, and that there must be in place proper oversight from regulatory agencies before that drilling is to take place; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Madison County Board of Supervisors Madison County and the Madison County Public Health Department urge the NYS Legislature to set into place regulations and means of oversight that shall be properly funded and staffed for the purpose of insuring that safe drilling practices are initiated and adhered to for as long as natural gas exploration and drilling take place in New York State, and that there be sound means of communication between those agencies responsible for public health with the intent of protecting drinking water supplies for all citizens of New York State.

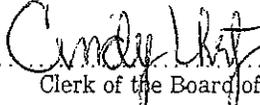
DATED: May 10, 2011

  
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John Salka, Chairman  
Public Health Services Committee

MADISON COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WAMPSVILLE N. Y.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I, Cindy Urtz, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madison, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County on May 10, 2011 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madison.

  
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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors