

AD HOC NATURAL GAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

The Ad Hoc Natural Gas Education Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: G. LaBare (Chair), J. Marinich, R. Williams

Members Absent: S. Herz, C. Burger

Others Present: J. Sluzar, Law; B. Poloncic, C. Carpenter, Vestal Gas Coalition; K. Lynch, NYSDEC; T. Beauduy, Susquehanna River Basin Commission; D. Reynolds, M. Diffendorf, R. Materese, S. Buchta, C. Marion, E. Denk, C. Hall, Legislature

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:02 PM.

Mr. Lynch, Regional Director Region 7, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation gave a presentation regarding NYS DEC's Regulation of Marcellus Shale Development in New York State (on file with the minutes). He gave some history on oil and gas wells in New York State, stating there have been approximately 75,000 wells drilled since 1820, and 13,000 of them being reported in 2008. Oil and gas drilling is regulated by NYS Environmental Conservation Law Article 23, Regulations 6NYCRR, Parts 550-559, and State Environmental Quality Review Act. Currently there is a supplemental GEIS review being done which addresses separate actions with common impacts not covered in the existing GEIS, which builds on the existing GEIS and proposes SEQRA determinations for the new activity. Mr. Reynolds asked if the County could rely on the States EIS when entering in to a lease for oil and gas drilling. Mr. Lynch stated that any action by a municipality requires a SEQRA review. The Lead Agency determines the environmental impact and completes the appropriate assessment form. An EIS is not needed if the Generic Environmental Impact Statement adequately addresses all potential impacts. A negative statement of impact would be the likely SEQRA conclusion if the action is consistent with the Final GEIS, no other DEC permits are needed, it is not in a State Parkland, there are less than 2.5 acres in an Agricultural District disturbed, and it is greater than 2,000 feet from a municipal water supply well, including wells drilled in primary and principal aquifers. Additional information may be found at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov).

Mr. Beauduy, Deputy Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission presented to the committee "Marcellus Shale Development in the Susquehanna River Basin: Regulating Water Use Impacts" (on file with the minutes). The Susquehanna River Basin is the largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and supplies 18 million gallons of water to the bay per minute. The Commission's regulatory authorities include groundwater withdrawals, surface water withdrawals, consumptive use and diversions. The remote Water Quality Monitoring Network is able to give real time monitoring in areas of interest. It can track changes to baseline WQ conditions for conductance, pH, temperature, depth, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. The current annual Marcellus withdrawal demand equals three days of typical power production withdrawal demand and the analysis shows that water use for natural gas development can be accommodated. Additional information regarding Marcellus Shale & natural Gas Well Development may be found at [www.srbcc.net/programs/projreviewmarcellus.htm](http://www.srbcc.net/programs/projreviewmarcellus.htm).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.