

AUG 17 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Cooper, Kathy**

**From:** tyler Caruso [tylercaruso@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 06, 2010 1:43 PM  
**To:** EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** NO to natural gas Drilling

Hello,

I would like to submit my comments urging the city to consider the banning of any natural gas drilling. My name is Tyler Caruso and I am a graduate student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. I am in the Graduate Center for Planning in the Environment working towards my Master of Science in Environmental Systems Management.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to ban gas drilling because-

- While it is true that, compared to the average air emissions from coal-fired generation, natural gas produces half as much carbon dioxide, less than a third as much nitrogen oxides, and one percent as much sulfur oxides at the power plant, natural gas also has the highest pre-combustion carbon dioxide emissions due to gas leaks from pipelines. Pre-combustion effects are responsible for 5-20% of the total emissions associated with all fuel used in a building. These drilling operations are highly industrial in nature, with large numbers of diesel engines running 24/7 to perform the drilling, pumping, and compression- all which produce a large amount of exhaust. This method of drilling has also been documented to have a very negative impact on air quality, with unacceptable ozone contribution, methane releases and extremely large amounts of green house gas emissions.

-Even if rigorous safety precautions are taken- there is still the human error factor- and when considering a watershed that will effect over 40 million people I don't feel that any risk is appropriate or tolerable. Please consider a recent spill that the Pennsylvania environment officials are now trying to clean up: over 8,000 gallons of dangerous drilling fluids after a series of spills at a natural gas production site near the town of Dimock last week:

"The spills, which occurred at a well site run by Cabot Oil and Gas, involve a compound manufactured by Halliburton that is described as a "potential carcinogen" and is used in the drilling process of hydraulic fracturing, according to state officials. The contaminants have seeped into a nearby creek, where a fish kill was reported by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP also reported fish 'swimming erratically'. The incident mentioned above is one the latest in a series of environmental problems connected to Cabot's drilling in the Dimock area. Last winter, drinking water in several area homes was found to contain metals and methane gas that state officials determined leaked underground from Cabot wells. And in the spring, the company was fined for several other spills, including an 800-gallon diesel spill from a truck that overturned. Neither Cabot Oil and Gas nor Halliburton immediately returned calls for comment on Monday. A Halliburton spokesperson sent an e-mail referring any questions to information on the company's Web site." (<http://www.propublica.org/feature/frack-fluid-spill-in-dimock-contaminates-stream-killing-fish-921>)

-Along with this, the potential effects of natural gas drilling on other parts of the ecosystem have also been realized. Take for example the sudden bursts of methane not uncommon from the drilling process that have been implicated in the death of 16 cattle near a drill site in Louisiana or the steaming mud eruption during an exploratory natural gas search in Indonesia that has continued to flow for over a year now that has left permanent, uninhabitable damage to the land.

- If drilling is allowed pollution of ground and surface water, degradation of the air quality and the damage to the surrounding ecosystems will occur at some if not at a massive level and this will undo any economic gain from drilling leases due to plummeting property values from contamination and also economic decline for towns due to a decrease in tourism.

-There is not enough treatment facilities available and the facilities that are present are inadequate to handle the massive volumes of “produced water” that will be contaminated by the fracking fluids, and will also be host to high concentrations of salt, benzene, toluene, xylene and, in some incidents, “naturally occurring radioactive materials.” These millions of gallons of produced water will have to be detoxified or treated before the water can be discharged into our surface waters.

-Finally the drilling process is moving the country’s energy policy in the wrong direction and should be re-evaluated immediately. Instead of investing further in the extraction of the remaining fossil fuels, our state, and nation should be developing energy policies which will move us to totally renewable sources, such as solar and wind and set a global example of what is possible.

-Please look over these articles and videos in order to further inform yourself and your colleagues about the issue from personal stories where drilling has already occurred:

<http://blogs.wvgazette.com/coaltattoo/2009/09/21/more-on-dunkard-creek-fish-kill/>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104565793&ps=rs>

<http://www.propublica.org/article/clean-natural-gas-not-in-my-backyard>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112978060>

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20090430/NEWS01/904300327/1060>

#### Videos-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLn4zh6Eadw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U01EK76Sy4A&feature=related>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKTK\\_VnGcBs&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKTK_VnGcBs&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUy7J7NF02M>

<http://lauraflanders.firedoglake.com/2009/07/20/hydraulic-fracturing-and-the-natural-gas-bonanza-obamas-moral-failing-on-honduras-and-the-spirit-of-humanity-in-gaza/>

<http://waterunderattack.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QefLQKLB5co&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHj90ZqImGY>

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Caruso

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Tyler W.D. Caruso

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