



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 20, 2010

City of Oneonta To Host Panel on Gas Drilling; Miller To Discuss City, OCCA Involvement in Drilling Debate

ONEONTA – On Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m., the City of Oneonta Environmental Board will host a facilitated panel discussion titled “Facts About Gas Drilling” at the United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street. Panelists will speak for 10-15 minutes each on their area of expertise, after which they will field questions from the audience. Speakers include: Lou Allstadt, retired Mobile executive; Dr. Ron Bishop, chemist, SUNY-Oneonta; Dr. Devin Castendyk, hydrologist, SUNY-Oneonta; Scott Fickbohm, district manager, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District; and Orville Cole, president, Gastem, Inc. **During this event, Erik Miller – OCCA executive director and City Council liaison to the Environmental Board – will also discuss local government involvement in the gas drilling debate. “OCCA and the City of Oneonta are working on many fronts to educate residents,” Miller said.** City of Oneonta political leaders have opted to restrict water sales to industrial uses such as gas drilling on grounds inclusive of environmental responsibility and consumptive use, Miller explained. “The value of clean water trumps any economic benefit,” he said. He explained that Oneonta is currently looking at managing lands with respect to drilling, as well as the adoption of road use standards, a topic Miller spoke about in a county government training program in May with Delta Engineering. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be in lieu of the Environmental Board’s regular meeting – the next regular meeting will be held in November.