



**E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
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LAST CHANCE FOR 2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: As the year draws to a close, OCCA urges 2007 members who have not yet renewed to consider doing so now. **“Lake Challenge” and other grant monies are restricted and must support designated programs. Membership funds are used to cover the costs of a variety of other critical initiatives, including solid waste and land-use management.** Recently, planning boards in our municipalities have sought OCCA’s guidance in addressing the pervasive presence of companies seeking permission from landowners to drill for natural gas. This will continue to require OCCA’s attention in the new year. **If you have not received a membership brochure via regular mail, or if you would like to download the brochure, please click on the following link: [http://occainfo.org/documents/Brochure\\_000.pdf](http://occainfo.org/documents/Brochure_000.pdf).**

OCCA ASKS DEC FOR MORE THOROUGH REVIEW OF NATURAL GAS DRILLING: In its 12-page commentary to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Otsego County Conservation Association has asked the state for more thorough review in the majority of items covered in the DEC’s Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement. **OCCA’s critique of the document generated by DEC began on a cautionary note, stating, “While OCCA understands the economic benefits New York State sees in natural resource extraction, in no way do we feel that environmental safeguards should be lessened to expedite evaluation in the final SGEIS.** Our comments echo the concerns of many other environmental organizations in the region and, in fact, statewide,” said OCCA executive director Erik Miller. “We have had discussions and exchanged views with the Sierra Club, Environmental Advocates of New York, New York Gas Coordination Group, Catskill Citizens, Delaware Riverkeeper, Audubon, and Catskill Mountainkeeper. We all share the same concerns,” he said. **OCCA’s comments on the dGEIS may be viewed at [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org) on the website home page, along with those of other groups,** including Catskill Citizens, Schuyler County Environmental Management Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sustainable Otsego. Comments from individuals are also posted.

LET OCCA MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS MERRY! Reduce stress, shorten your gift list, enjoy one-stop shopping, save time, and save energy (yours and the planet’s!) by giving an OCCA gift membership ... At a low operating cost, OCCA provides much expertise and many services to the residents and local governments of Otsego County. With broader and more diversified support, we will be better positioned to address concerns about land use, water and air quality, recycling, and more. **Please consider giving a holiday gift membership to a friend or relative.** Membership levels are: Beginning Membership, \$15; Supporter, \$30-\$74; Contributor, \$75-\$149; Sponsor, \$150-\$499; Steward, \$500-\$999; Patron, \$1,000-\$4,999; Benefactor, \$5,000 and above. **For your convenience, the gift membership flier PDF is attached to this e-bulletin.**