

OCCA Position Statement on Gas Drilling

Approved June 17, 2009

Otsego County Conservation Association has deliberated extensively over the impacts of natural gas exploration within New York State. Realizing development must always be weighed against impacts to the environment, ecosystems, and the greater good for humankind, **the OCCA Board of Directors opposes gas development, particularly as it relates to horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing of deposits.**

Gas development cannot be shown to safeguard the intrinsic qualities each and every one of us so cherish here in our immediate environment. Horizontal gas drilling within Otsego County and New York State poses serious concerns regarding its effects on water, ambient noise and air quality. Regulatory authorities, such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in its scope for gas drilling as proposed in its Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS), have yet to address adequately the protection of water, air and other environmental factors. This lack of regulation causes us great concern.

Rather than disturbing our lands and putting our waters at risk, OCCA believes that our county and our nation as a whole should focus on decreasing our use of fossil fuels and turning to applications of renewable energy sources.