

RESOLUTION

NUMBER 44-11

(Re: Resolution calling on the United States Congress to adopt legislation removing the exemption for hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act; **Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; National Environmental Policy Act and Toxic Release Inventory provisions under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.**

And calling on the United States Environmental Protection Agency to apply stringent regulations to protect drinking water supplies from any risk due to hydraulic fracturing, and on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Legislature, and New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to prohibit drilling for natural gas within the boundaries of the New York City watershed.)

WHEREAS, The entire Catskill and Delaware watersheds, which together provide approximately 90% of the City's daily water supply, sit atop the Marcellus Shale geological formation, which contains large deposits of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, Increasing interest in the use of natural gas as a fuel and new developments in gas recovery technology have recently made drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation economically viable; and

WHEREAS, Drilling within the Marcellus Shale employs a technique known as hydraulic fracturing, a recovery process that frees natural gas deposits using large quantities of water, combined with multiple chemical additives, many of which are known to be toxic; and

WHEREAS, Chemicals contained in hydraulic fracturing fluids have been associated with a variety of public health risks, including developmental delays and cancers; and

WHEREAS, Naturally-occurring radioactive elements and other pollutants may also be disturbed and released by the hydraulic fracturing process, leading to contamination of underground aquifers and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing presents risks of water contamination during drilling operations and during the storage and disposal of millions of gallons of the water and chemical additive mixture required for each well that is created; and

WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing has resulted in contaminated water supplies in other states, including Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming, and New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the collection of methane gas from shale by means of hydrofracking has raised cause for concern regarding potential impacts to human health and the environment that the Town Board believe warrant further scientific and regulatory analysis.

WHEREAS, these areas of concern involve water supply, water quality, wastewater treatment operations, local and regional air quality, management of naturally occurring radioactive materials disturbed during drilling, cumulative environmental impacts, and the watershed in the surrounding areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt does not support and is strongly opposed to the process of hydrofracking until further investigation is done and substantial proof can be provided that these concerns are addressed.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to New York State officials, the NYS DEC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT
JO-ANN DYCKMAN
TOWN CLERK

Adopted January 25, 2011

At a Regular Meeting

Held at Town Hall