

Resolution #96, 2008

**RESOLUTION – SEEKING INCLUSION IN THE UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT-FUNDED STUDY WITH THE TOWNS OF TUSTEN,
HIGHLAND, COCHETON & DELAWARE ON THE MUNICIPAL-LEVEL IMPACTS OF
NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN WESTERN SULLIVAN COUNTY**

WHEREAS: the four Upper Delaware River Towns of Tusten, Highland, Cocheton and Delaware are participating in a joint municipal effort, working in conjunction with the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, to undertake a study of the municipal-level impacts of natural gas drilling in western Sullivan County (the “Study”), and

WHEREAS: the Study is to be funded in part from a grant provided under the Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), and

WHEREAS: participating towns seek to share data and identify implementation strategies to protect infrastructure, in particular roads and bridges, as well as to maintain their broader land and water management goals, consistent with the *River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River*; and

WHEREAS: the Town of Lumberland is also located in the Upper Delaware River corridor and is a signatory to the *River Management Plan*, and

WHEREAS: the Study would develop a road impact-assessment regime that addresses and avoids potential damage to roadways caused by gas drilling activities on private property, as private drilling activity has been known to externalize costs onto municipalities- and ultimately to taxpayers-in excessive wear and tear on roads and bridges from the large volume of heavy-truck traffic required for drilling and hydraulic fracturing (“fracing”), and

WHEREAS: the Town does not currently have regulations in place that protect the Towns’ roads and bridges from the impacts of heavy-truck traffic associated with gas-industry practices, nor does it currently impose fees or require bonds to ensure the Town’s ability to pay for repairs to roads or bridges associated with these practices, and

WHEREAS: the effect on water quality in the Upper Delaware River Basin as a result of erosion and siltification of tributaries is an ongoing concern, and land-clearing and construction for drill sites, roads and pipelines associated with gas drilling and extraction holds the potential to increase storm water runoff; and the practices of storing drilling “mud” and fracing fluids may pose further risk of surface and ground water contamination

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Lumberland, Sullivan County, does hereby seek to be included in the Study and will contribute in-kind services in the form of participation by the Town Supervisor and Building Code Enforcement and Highway Officials, as well as funds not to exceed \$1,400 to cover a portion of the cost of engineering services and equal to the share to be contributed by other participating municipalities.

MOTION BY: Supervisor John LiGreci **SECOND BY:** Councilman Jay Shafer **VOTE: 4-0 (Councilman Joseph Carr was Absent)**
ADOPTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LUMBERLAND
OCTOBER 8, 2008