

My name is Barbara Arrindell. I am the Director of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability. Our members are located in, and are concerned about, New York, Pennsylvania and beyond.

First, 60 days is insufficient time to comment on the over 800 page DSGEIS(Draft). To make sense of it you must constantly refer to the '92 (generic)GEIS - so actually you are dealing with a very much larger set of materials. At least an additional 60 days, beyond November 30, should be allowed for comments. There should also be additional hearings, 4 is an extreme hardship in terms of travel and accessibility.

From the frequent references to gas and oil industry sources as expert and authoritative throughout the DSGEIS(Draft) one could conclude that this document is a product of a collaboration between the DEC and the oil and gas industry.

I will comment on two specific deficiencies of the document. The first is **formal rulemaking**. As a result a FOIL request from EarthJustice, the DEC has admitted to not keeping records of problems from gas drilling since the 1992-3 (generic)GEIS. This is a public health matter. The lack of transparency, public oversight, historical records, and capricious application of standards, results in a callous disregard for public health. Formal rulemaking including recordkeeping and enforceable standards must additionally be coupled with strict enforcement. The DSGEIS(draft) does not address these issues.

The second deficiency is **cumulative impacts**. The EPA has recently ruled that "**aggregation**" - the cumulative impacts - of regional sources of **emissions** must be taken into account. The industry has fought long and hard to avoid public scrutiny of cumulative impacts - so industry knows, but the DEC does not mention aggregated or cumulative impacts; it looks at minute piecemealed units - one well, one pipeline, etc, - by themselves. Regarding **spacing** of wells we see more piecemealing. The DEC has a policy of treating the various geological layers where gas and oil are found as totally separate entities resulting in a surface with wells at a few hundred foot spacings not the larger spacings described publicly for each layer. See the Smyrna gas well map submitted. This the industry knows. Why has the public had to struggle to get this information? Why is it not in the DSGEIS(Draft)?

And the cumulative impact of the **wastewater** produced by the wells is also not acknowledged as the public health problem that it is or even whether or how the wastewater can be treated at all - except by shipping it to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has inadequate means and procedures to handle the wastes generated in PA. Witness the continuing drama of contamination of the Monongahela River by gas drilling wastes. Recently the PA DEP issued its third drinking water warning in less than a year to the 385 thousand people whose source of drinking water is the Monongahela River. New York must deal in-state with the waste it produces. Will the Monongahela River's condition be the fate of the Delaware River, of the many rivers and watersheds in New York? At the last DRBC meeting on Oct 22, there was an open discussion going on between the Commissioners panel and the audience and the question arose asking if there is a waste treatment plant that can clean the water. This gets to the crux of the problem, the NYS rep, Mark Klotz said ... "there are no existing water treatment plants capable of treating the water." The industry also knows this as witness the rigorously (and expensively) defended exemptions placed in the 2005 Energy Policy Act to excuse them from liability for the inevitable contamination produced by industrial gas drilling. They have externalized the environmental costs to the public.

When Chesapeake withdrew its DRBC(Delaware River Basin Commission) Docket D-2009-20-1 for water withdrawal on October 20 it stated that the withdrawal "... is preferable to continuing with hearings and further public debate ..." We must have public debate and public revelation of the industry's practices.

What are the air, the water, the land and all that lives on it, but the basis of life ?- for the public. These are not luxuries, but the necessities of the present and of the future. The DEC as the conservator of the environment for the public - not for the industry - is obligated to assess issues like those I mentioned and many more before allowing this transformative industrial process to begin. Environmental cleanup is much more expensive than prevention.

DCS will be submitting additional comments in writing and perhaps also at other hearings as we wade through the implications of what is in, and not in, the DSGEIS(draft).

Submitting today these comments and
aggregation decision
Smyrna map
AND the link to to DRBC is <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/dockets/D-2009-20-1.htm>