

**October 23, 2008
Meeting Minutes****Location**

Legislative Conference Room, 6th Floor, Broome County Office Building, Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY

Attendance

Constituent Members: Debbie Preston, Town of Conklin; Mike Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson; Tarik Abdelazim, City of Binghamton; Pat Brennan, Broome County; Peter Andreasen, Town of Vestal; Tim Whitesell, Town of Binghamton; Kevin Burke, Village of Port Dickinson; Lois Dilworth, Town of Barker; Gordon Kniffen, Town of Kirkwood

Associate Members: Lawrence Brinker, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

Other Attendees: Joseph Sluzar, Broome County Attorney; David Donoghue, Broome County DPW

Convene

Supervisor Debbie Preston convened the meeting at 4:05.

Natural Gas Leasing & Drilling in the North East - Joseph Sluzar, County Attorney and Patrick Brennan, Deputy County Executive

Sluzar and Brennan gave a presentation regarding what the County has learned about the Natural Gas Leasing and Drilling play in the North East. Sluzar recently visited Fort Worth, Texas where he was able to see active drilling and the effects on the community.

The first step in exploration for natural gas is seismic testing. The County's position is that it has the right to permit seismic testing under county-owned roads, but not other roads or adjacent properties.

Drilling is typically done in rural areas but is also possible in urban areas such as what is occurring in Fort Worth, Texas. The process of drilling is regulated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the landowner. Localities are preempted from regulating the details of this process. In Fort Worth, ambient noise levels are measured before and after drilling. There is a drill pit on site where borings and other waste are stored. The waste is then put into steel tanks and disposed of according to state waste management regulations. This closed loop system keeps material off the ground until it is then trucked away.

The fracing process requires 800,000 to 5 million gallons of fresh water per well bore. A silicone based chemical and sand are added and the mixture is pumped at 4000+ pounds of pressure. This lasts 4 or 5 days. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission regulates any consumptive use of water in the basin. Since drilling is consider a consumptive use every Marcellus and Utica Shale drill site requires commission approval.

Water is trucked to the site and the waste is trucked away. Frac tanks are 21K gallons and 175K pounds when full. These trucks lead to an increase in traffic, noise and dust. While the drilling itself lasts only a few days, the whole process takes months. Truck traffic is not regulated by DEC. Localities can handle the impact of truck traffic through a permanent fee to pay for truck damage or a fee per linear mile to pay for accelerated depreciation of roads.

Productive wells are composed of the same basic components; compressors, separators and waste water tanks, but each well site is different. These wells are regulated by the DEC, the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the landowner. Once again localities are preempted from regulating the details.

The natural gas is moved through gathering lines, transmission lines and distribution lines. Any interstate lines are regulated by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and intrastate lines regulated by the PSC.

The County is taking action through efforts to learn from communities that have gone through this process, consult with experts, developing detailed leases/RFP's and preparing local laws/regulations.

Broome County leases are being negotiated through the development of RFP's in an effort to balance opportunity with protection. County requirements include a closed loop system, daytime fracing, noise management, and emergency, stormwater, and spill plans, among others. The County is also assisting municipalities in the development of local laws for road preservation, noise abatement and security.

A question and answer period followed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM

Recorded and edited by: Beth Egitto