

January 7, 2012

Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-6510

Attn: rdSGEIS Comments

On behalf of Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, its board of directors, and its 400+ members, I am writing to voice strong opposition to hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.

Hydraulic fracturing involves injecting toxic chemicals combined with water and sand under extremely high pressure into rock layers, shattering the rock to release the natural gas. This process has been employed in over 30 states, and has created a host of environmental problems, including contaminated drinking water, toxic waste ponds, and drilling fluid leaks. This large-scale industrial process will have a profound impact on the physical environment of our state. With numerous roads and wells being built to support this process, it will also cause fragmentation of precious habitat, adversely affecting fauna and flora throughout the drilling region.

While new draft regulations contain suggestions on mitigating proposals, they fail to deal with the essential destructiveness of fracking. The DEC's proposals do not adequately address cumulative impacts of the massive drilling, such as potential ground and surface water contamination, the risk to public health over time, or how to adequately address the problems dealing with drilling waste.

In addition, this destructive process causes fragmentation to bird habitats for a wide range of birds, many in long-term decline, and already on the state and federal threatened, endangered, or special concern lists. Adding the impacts and dangers of this widespread industrial activity will significantly further imperil these birds.

Due to the extensive environmental risks and fragmentation of bird habitats, I urge you to ban hydraulic fracturing throughout the state. This technology is inherently unsafe and dangerous to human health, wildlife, and the environment. Fracking should have no place in New York's energy future.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fitzgerald, President
Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Inc.