

### **Update on Hydraulic Fracturing Review**

Public information on hydraulic fracturing and issues related to development of unconventional natural gas continues to grow. New York State has recently released a preliminary revised draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on horizontal well drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing. This report updates a 1991 study that examined natural gas exploration environmental issues to reflect new technologies and increased understanding of potential impacts. It makes a number of recommendations to improve industry practice and regulatory controls as well as identifying areas where drilling will not occur due to potentially elevated risk to water resources or the natural environment. Information on this draft report and updates can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>

The State of Pennsylvania has also recently released the Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission report. This group was established by the state to "develop a comprehensive, strategic proposal for the responsible and environmentally sound development of Marcellus Shale". Although representing a billion dollar annual tax revenue in this state, the government was responding to public concerns over the potential adverse effects on the environment, infrastructure and economy of this expanding activity. The Report contains 96 recommendations to improve environmental protection, protect public health and safety, and ensure that the people and economy of the state maximize benefits of developing and using this non-renewable resource. The Report and associated information can be found at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/marcellus\\_shale\\_advisory\\_commission/20074](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/marcellus_shale_advisory_commission/20074)

Members of the Nova Scotia hydraulic fracturing review team have continued to research and analyze information on potential adverse environmental effects and effective control mechanisms. To expand knowledge of technical aspects within the provincial government, a team member attended a 5 day technical course on hydraulic fracturing. In September, two members will attend "Shale Gas Water Management Canada 2011" in Calgary. This international conference's stated mission is to "determine the optimal strategies for managing the water resources used for hydraulic fracturing in ways that are both cost-effective and have minimal environmental impact". Details on this conference can be found at: <http://www.shale-gas-water-management-canada.com/>