




**State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany 12224**

Andrew M. Cuomo
GOVERNOR

Howard B. Glaser
Director of State Operations

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph Martens, Commissioner, DEC

FROM: Howard Glaser, Director of State Operations 

SUBJECT: Expanded Review of Hydrofracking – Events in Pennsylvania

DATE: May 27, 2011

Executive Order Number 41 directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to issue a revised draft of the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) for Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program.

Since the issuance of the first draft SGEIS, events in Pennsylvania and other reports have raised additional public concerns about hydrofracking. Most recently, on April 19, 2011, a natural gas well in Bradford County, Pennsylvania experienced a blowout that discharged thousands of gallons of water containing fracking chemicals into a nearby creek. Seven households were evacuated from the area as a result.

It is important that DEC take into account information concerning the incident in Pennsylvania and, to that end, I hereby direct DEC to review the issues raised and any lessons learned from the accidents in Pennsylvania and ensure that these issues are adequately addressed in the revised draft SGEIS. This additional review should include an on-site inspection of the accident site in Pennsylvania. Please have the draft SGEIS completed for issuance by July 1, 2011.