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DELAWARE-OTSEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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P.O. BOX 544, ONEONTA, NY 13820

## **POSTION ON GAS DRILLING AND HYDROFRACKING**

With large scale gas drilling operations proposed for our chapter area of Otsego, Delaware, Chenango, and Schoharie Counties, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society herein states our position on gas drilling and hydrofracking wells.

Our concerns with hydrofracturing gas exploration and production deal with seven major areas:

1. - potential ground and surface water contamination from the many toxic chemicals used in hydrofracking the shale.
2. - storage and disposal of above ground production fluids, such as in open lagoons, or into nearby streams, or trucked to an unprepared waste water treatment plant.
3. - impacts to wildlife and their habitats, including high-volume water withdrawals.
4. - damage to roads and other surface features such as forests, agricultural area and waterways.
5. - noise and air pollution.
- 6.- immediate and adequate response to any accidents or spills.
- 7.- cumulative social impacts of pipelines and wells (scenic beauty, rural character, tourism, taxes, property values, sports, agriculture).

Hundreds of wells are anticipated for our area, and this may change the region to a permanent industrial landscape. Potential contamination and depletion of water, and pollution of air, soil, and of farm and forest ecosystems could destroy the many resources available today. Water withdrawal and contamination are of special concern. The fragmentation and loss of habitats, and the disturbances of noise and traffic will have an adverse effect on birds and other wildlife, some already in precipitous decline.

The practice of injecting large quantities of toxic substances into the earth to physically fracture it and permanently leave behind damaged geology and foreign substances is an assault on the very resources that sustain life. This damage will remain for millennia, and will threaten unseen future generations, as well as present-day humans and wildlife. Even with the most stringent controls and oversight, this activity is an unacceptable danger to our planet, with no environmental benefits. As such, we oppose hydrofracturing gas exploration and production in our region and elsewhere. We call upon the state of New York to permanently ban this practice.

*Passed by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors 10/20/09*