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New York State Prohibits Fracking **Delaware Riverkeeper Network Applauds New York's Assessment and Conclusion**

New York State Governor Cuomo's Administration presented the conclusions of four years of analysis of high volume hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") at the Governor's Cabinet meeting this morning. Howard Zucker, the acting commissioner of health, concluded that he could not support fracking for natural gas in New York State, citing the known health effects of the process, and the lack of comprehensive health studies that prove it can be done safely.

The Department of Environmental Conservation will be issuing a final SGEIS in January 2015 with a legally binding prohibition of high volume hydraulic fracturing in the state. NYDEC Commissioner Joseph Martens cited the unavoidable and immitigable damages that would accompany fracking, the areas that would have to be off-limits due to vulnerable resources, the practical exclusion of many areas due to adopted bans by municipalities, and the lack of economic benefits.

"Governor Cuomo has made the right decision for the right reasons—he required technical analysis and comprehensive inquiry from his Administration's qualified experts; he gave his agencies the arm's length they needed from the push and pull of politics; and he allowed science to inform the policy decisions that were needed. We applaud and thank Governor Cuomo and New York for applying caution and clear-headed reason in reaching this historic decision. This will surely lead the way for other states, especially Pennsylvania, where a new Governor will be taking the helm and making policy decisions regarding the

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ravaging impacts of fracking and in the Delaware River Watershed, where a tentative drilling moratorium is in place,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network recently released a report challenging shale gas drilling and fracking performance standards issued by the Center for Sustainable Shale Development (CSSD), a nonprofit partnership of drilling interests and others, which assert shale gas extraction can be undertaken safely if done in compliance with a set of CSSD created standards released last year. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network report includes the analyses of 6 experts that reviews and challenges the CSSD standards and explains why fracking cannot be done safely. The report also provides a discussion of the better energy path that is available for fueling our region and country, drawing upon the writings of Dr. Mark Jacobson. Governor Cuomo stated at today’s Cabinet meeting that he plans to focus on how to support economic stimulation that does not rely on fracking. The report can be found online at: www.bit.ly/DRN-CSSDExpertReviews Interviews with the report’s experts have also been prepared and can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-CSSDExpertVideos> .

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