

**Public Scoping Meeting  
for  
Supplemental Generic  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**DEC's Oil and Gas Regulatory Program**



# What is a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)?

- Evaluates separate actions having common impacts
- Individual EIS not needed if GEIS adequately addresses all potential impacts
- Gas well drilling in New York State was reviewed in a 1992 GEIS
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/45912.html>



# 1992 Findings on Gas Well Drilling



- No significant impacts if:
  - Consistent with Final GEIS
  - No other DEC permits needed
  - Not in a State Parkland
  - Less than 2.5 acres in Agricultural District disturbed
  - Greater than 2,000 feet from a municipal water supply well



# Why Do We Need A Supplemental GEIS?

- To address separate actions with common impacts not covered in the existing GEIS
- To evaluate potential environmental impacts and make recommendations on ways to reduce or avoid adverse environmental impacts
- In this case, focus will be on potential environmental impacts of large fluid volumes needed for gas well development by high-volume hydraulic fracturing



# What is Scoping?

- Process that determines the topics addressed in the Supplemental GEIS

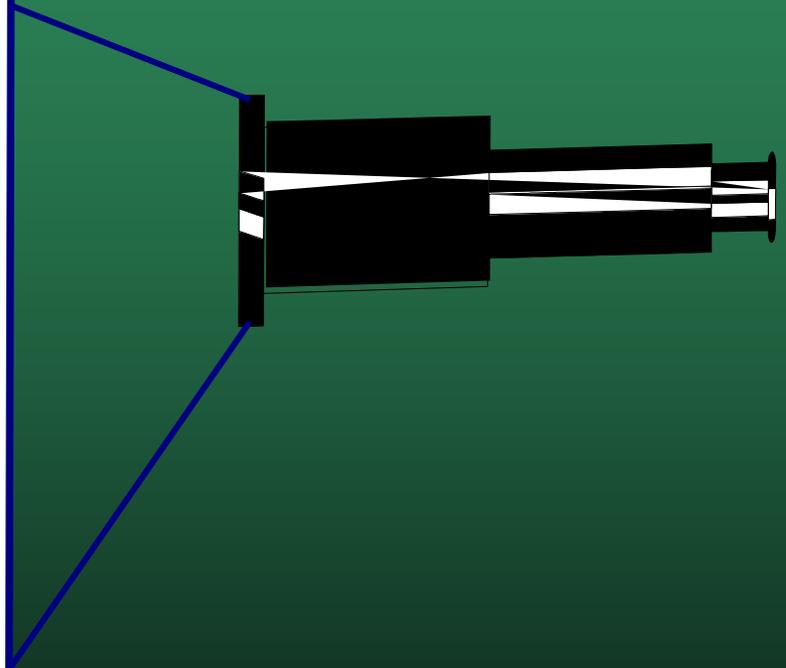


- Comments from the public and other agencies are received and considered



# Scoping Process Objectives

- ▶ **Identify potential impacts**
- ▶ **Eliminate insignificant and irrelevant issues**
- ▶ **Identify needed information**
- ▶ **Identify alternatives and ways to minimize impacts**
- ▶ **Get public input**



# What is the Draft Scope?

- A proposed outline of topics that will be addressed in the Supplemental GEIS
- Also includes narrative background and context information
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/47554.html>



# Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- To receive your comments on the draft scope before a final scope (or outline) for the Supplemental GEIS is prepared



# What Action Is Being Reviewed Now?



- Issuance by DEC of well permits for high-volume hydraulic fracturing
- There will always be a site-specific permit review



# What Topics Are Being Reviewed Now?



- **Large volume water withdrawals and potential impacts to:**

- Stream flow
- Public water supply
- Fish and wildlife

- **Hydraulic fracturing:**

- Well site facilities
- Fracturing fluid composition
- Fluid storage and transportation
- Fluid reuse potential
- Fluid treatment options



# What Potential Impacts Are Included In The Draft Scope?

- Groundwater
- Surface Water
- Noise, Visual, Air Quality
- Road Use
- Community Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Environmental Justice



# High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing

## To be determined:

- What are the potential impacts and how can they be minimized or avoided?
- Under what circumstances will the GEIS and SGEIS adequately address potential impacts?
- What circumstances will require a site-specific supplemental environmental impact statement?



# Next Steps

1. DEC will produce a Final Scope after the scoping meetings are completed.

***Target: January 2009***

2. DEC will then prepare a draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement that covers the topics outlined in the Final Scope.

***Target: Spring 2009***

3. When the draft SGEIS is completed, DEC will:
  - Publish a Notice of Completion
  - Solicit public comment on the draft before issuing a Final Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement



# Next Steps

4. After the public comment period on the Draft SGEIS, DEC will publish a Final SGEIS.

***Target: Summer 2009***

5. At least 10 days later, DEC will make SEQRA\* Findings regarding the proposed activity.

- Findings will form the basis for future permit reviews and determinations on adequacy of GEIS and SGEIS.

\*SEQRA = State Environmental Quality Review Act



# Public Participation Opportunities

- This is one of six public meetings to receive comments on the draft scope.
- Written comments on draft scope accepted until December 15, 2008.
- (Spring 2009) At least 30 days to comment on the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement before it is finalized.



# Written Comments - Draft Scope

- Due December 15, 2008
- Include name and return mail or email address
- May be submitted tonight
- May be emailed to:

[dmnog@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dmnog@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Subject: "Scope Comments"



# Written Comments – Draft Scope

- May be mailed to:

Attn: Scope Comments

Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation

NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources

625 Broadway, Third Floor

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