

- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Apartments
- Pets
- Coupons
- Items for sale
- Place an ad

- Weather
- Current / Forecast



Radar: rain alert

- Latest News
- Long Island
- New York City
- Nation / World
- Sports
- High School Sports
- Business
- Entertainment
- Politics / Elections
- Health & Fitness
- NEW: LI Information
- LI Top Doctors
- Travel
- Living Green
- Long Island Crime
- Commuting
- News Obituaries
- Death Notices
- AP Top News

Explore Long Island

- Things to do
- Restaurant reviews
- Fairs & Festivals
- Kids stuff
- Events
- Beaches
- Golf
- More Explore LI

High School Sports

- Newsday's N-Zone
- Scores
- Schedules
- Photos
- More N-Zone

- Opinion / Views
- Op-Ed
- Letters
- Editorials

am New York

Hot Topics

Blogs

Columnists

Videos

Photos / Multimedia

- Resources
- RSS
- Mobile
- E-mail newsletter
- Newsday archives
- Buy photos
- Corrections
- Site Map

# Don't drill yet

## NYers need to know a lot more first

July 25, 2008

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has a reputation as a zealous sentinel. But it sold the public short with its amateurish handling of a bill to permit a new form of drilling for natural gas, which could potentially pollute ecologically sensitive areas of the state.

Gov. David Paterson, who unfortunately signed this sleeper bill put forth by his own administration, tried to undo some of the damage at the last minute: He ordered DEC to update its environmental impact statement to address this new technology. That's not enough. The DEC should also issue a moratorium on any new drilling permits.

If natural gas deposits were found in the Catskills and other areas of the Marcellus Shale formation, the state would benefit from an increased supply, and revenues are estimated to be near a billion dollars. But first we need to know the environmental costs, particularly on the regional water supply, and determine whether some areas of the state should be off-limits to drilling.

Assemb. Robert Sweeney (D-Lindenhurst), chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee, didn't hold hearings on the bill before it was signed, but he should move to get some answers now. What chemicals are in the "gel" that is shot into the shale? Where will the mining companies obtain the tons of water needed to free the trapped gas? What will be done with the toxic byproducts from the drilling?

The public has been left out in this rush to drill. Sweeney should give them the opportunity to be heard.

Read all 25 comments »

Name

Comments

**THE LATEST FROM THE OPINION BLOGS**

Wall Handelsman's toons / Viewsday blog

- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Apartments
- Pets
- Coupons
- Items for sale
- Place an ad

- Weather
- Current / Forecast

- Latest News
- Long Island
- New York City
- Nation / World
- Sports
- High School Sports
- Business
- Entertainment
- Politics / Elections
- Health & Fitness
- NEW: LI Information
- LI Top Doctors
- Travel
- Living Green
- Long Island Crime
- Commuting
- News Obituaries
- Death Notices
- AP Top News

Explore Long Island

- Things to do
- Restaurant reviews
- Fairs & Festivals
- Kids stuff
- Events
- Beaches
- Golf
- More Explore LI

High School Sports

- Newsday's N-Zone
- Scores
- Schedules
- Photos
- More N-Zone

- Opinion / Views
- Op-Ed
- Letters
- Editorials

am New York

Hot Topics

Blogs

Columnists

Videos

Photos / Multimedia

Resources

- RSS
- Mobile
- E-mail newsletter
- Newsday archives
- Buy photos
- Corrections
- Site Map



Newspaper Services

# July 31: Drilling oversight; kids and guns; Connecticut-Long Island connection; no nukes

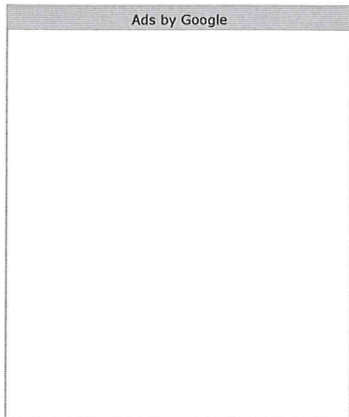
July 31, 2008

## Scrutiny over drilling

Your editorial, "Don't drill yet" [Opinion, July 25] is based upon the false premise that the new law "permits a new form of drilling."

You've missed the mark in two ways: First, the new law only addresses the spacing of horizontal wells to protect the rights of adjoining landowners and has nothing to do with permitting drilling. Second, horizontal drilling is not new in [New York](#) State - there are dozens of horizontal wells in New York, all of which are tightly regulated by the DEC.

What is new is the magnitude of proposed drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation. Gov. [David Paterson](#) and I recognize that this warrants closer scrutiny, particularly given the use and disposal of the large quantities of water used in the "hydro-fracturing" process. As recently announced, DEC will be addressing the potential impacts from this activity through a full-blown open public process to supplement the existing generic environmental impact statement.



To suggest that this is being dealt with in an "amateurish" fashion ignores what the new law says and the steps DEC is taking to ensure rigorous environmental reviews of the anticipated Marcellus Shale drilling. It also displays an inexcusable disregard for the department's professional staff who regulate this important industry in New York.

Pete Grannis

Albany

*Editor's note: The writer is commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.*