

KLA Newsletter March 2014

Hydrofracking Activity Update

The Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee (H&WD) welcomed the recent statement released by Joe Martens, New York State DEC Commissioner, that any DEC decision on permitting High Volume Horizontal Fracturing for natural gas (HVHF) would not be made until 2015 at the earliest. In addition Martens reported that Governor Cuomo had not provided any funds for staffing the DEC for HVHF in the 2014-2015 NYS Budget.

The continuing reports of HVHF contaminating the water and aquifers near and around some of the HVHF well sites in other states reinforces the KLA concerns of environmental risks to the Keuka Lake Watershed. The Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) supports the KLA position in this regard. The City of Rochester, which uses two of the Finger Lakes (Hemlock and Canadice) for its water supply, has joined the FLRWA as a partner and shares the FLRWA concerns.

Seneca Lakes Pure Water Alliance (SLPWA) has just reached a tentative agreement with the NYS Department of Health (DOH) for the release of the health information in the near future that the DOH has obtained in its quest to understand the health concerns of HVHF. SLPWA will share this information with the KLA.

The H&WD Committee is hoping to meet with the DEC in the near future and discuss the current KLA concerns and what actions it might expect from the DEC.

The H&WD Committee maintains its position that HVHF be prohibited in the Keuka Lake Watershed and a 4000 foot buffer and will continue to monitor, respond and communicate HVHF activities and decisions as they develop during 2014.